

## TOMORROW

**Pulled together.**  
With elections imminent, Peter Nichols looks at the accomplishments of Turkey's military leader, Kenan Evren  
... falling apart  
Muslim north v Christian south: the new conflict looming in Sudan  
**Drawing...**  
All the fixtures for the first round of the FA Cup  
... the Princess Line  
If the coat fits, wear it - Suzy Menkes on winter wear with a swagger

## Police draw up code of ethics

A code of professional ethics to maintain public confidence in the police is being drawn up, Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has announced. His remarks came after the publication of a report which showed doubts among Londoners about the behaviour of police. **Page 3**

## Optimism on economy

The London Business School has forecast sustained economic recovery with a 2½ per cent growth in 1984 and 1985, falling unemployment and 6 per cent inflation. The latest CBI survey, however, is expected to be more cautious in its optimism. **Page 15**

## Murder charge

Two men aged 33 and 31, are due to appear before magistrates today charged with the murder of Mrs Adrienne Hill, a Bristol solicitor's wife. **Page 3**

## Computer link

A school in Bracknell, Berkshire, is opening a computer unit with links to databanks all over the world. It will be the first direct international communications link using Prestel. **Page 3**

## Phalange stand

Shakib Pierre Gemayel, founder of Lebanon's Phalangist party, will insist at the Geneva talks that getting foreign troops out of the country must be the priority. **Page 6**

## Solidarity call

With the amnesty for opponents of General Jaruzelski about to expire, the Solidarity underground called for protest demonstrations throughout November. **Page 7**

## Blood dispute

Health unions are preventing the supply of free blood to a new private hospital in Glasgow because they fear the blood may be sold to patients. **Page 2**

## Kaunda again

President Kaunda of Zambia has been sworn in for a fifth term in office. He received 93 per cent of votes cast in last week's election. **Page 5**

## TV film 'wrong'

British Nuclear Fuels has rejected claims of high levels of child cancer near its Windscale plant, to be made in a television programme tomorrow. **Child leukaemia, page 4**

## Phone strikes

Industrial action against the privatization of British Telecom is to spread to Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Swansea with engineers being called out on selective strike. **Page 2**

## Clean sweep

British horses filled the first three places in the Prix Royal-Oak (French St Leger) at Longchamp, Old Country beating Band by a neck with Another Sam third. **Report, page 19**

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## West 'cannot just walk into other countries'

# Thatcher comes off the fence

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The full extent of the rift in Anglo-American relations over the invasion of Grenada was made public yesterday by the Government's response to the invasion. Mrs Margaret Thatcher declared that the West could not just march into other countries when things happened in them which they did not like and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said the United States action could not be justified.

In what amounted to a change of tone in the Government's response to the invasion, which it had been reluctant to condemn outright last week, the Prime Minister told an estimated audience of 25 million listeners on the BBC World Service: "If you are going to pronounce a new law that wherever Communism reigns against the will of the people... the United States shall enter, then we are going to have really terrible wars in the world."

Mrs Thatcher said she was delighted that the people of Grenada were free and that the people of the Eastern Caribbean could sleep more soundly in their beds. But she went on: "Does that mean you are entitled to go into a whole list of other countries? I think the answer is 'no'."

The Prime Minister was speaking after the Foreign Secretary had confirmed that the Government had complained to the American Government about the lack of frankness over its invasion plans. The United States had not given Britain "an opportunity of consultation in those last critical stages of the kind we would have wished."

Sir Geoffrey said on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* that the invasion was not justified on the grounds of danger to American citizens or of the Cuban-Soviet presence.

He said that Cubans or Russians could be discovered in many other parts of the world but if they were in those countries as a result of an invitation, however misguided, of the governments concerned, that did not provide a justification for invasion.

The Government's stronger line on the American action came on the eve of today's Commons debate on the deployment of cruise missiles and amid growing evidence of public mistrust, in the aftermath of the Grenada invasion, of the American guarantee of joint US-British control over the firing of the missiles.

A MORI poll in *The Sunday Times* yesterday showed that of more than 1,000 voters interviewed 75 per cent thought America would fire the missiles even if the British Government objected and a Harris poll for *Weekend World* indicated that 87 per cent of the electorate favoured the dual key mechanism of control, a view which will be put in today's debate by the Opposition and is shared by some Conservative MPs.

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, the former Tory Cabinet Minister, said yesterday that the invasion "had immensely strengthened the lobby for the dual key."

Mrs Thatcher, who made clear in the live phone-in programme her desire to minimize the damage the invasion has caused in relations, said the situations regarding cruise and the Grenada invasion were totally different.

One concerned an independent small island in the American sphere, over which the Americans had been under no obligation to consult, and the other was about American nuclear weapons on British soil

over which there had been an agreement in writing between the two countries over many years.

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, will use the same argument in resisting the calls for the dual key today.

But Mrs Thatcher displayed no reticence in showing her disapproval of the American invasion, and made clear her reluctance to send in British troops as part of a security force. She said that Western countries did not use force "to walk into other people's countries."

"You have to be absolutely certain if you do that there is no choice, no other way." She hated Communism. There were many people who would love to see the end of it. "That does not mean we can just walk into them and say: 'Now we are free'."

She said the reason the Americans went in was regional security. Now everybody had to try to ensure that democracy was restored and hope earnestly that the people of Grenada, who had been given a second chance for democracy, chose and sustained the democratic path.

She made it clear that Britain would be sympathetic to calls for help "when the United States has cleared the island of the present resistance". It was important that all parts of the resistance were cleared up before a Commonwealth force went in.

If there was to be a multinational force, Mrs Thatcher said, it must have clear terms of reference, a clear command structure and a time limit on the duration of its stay.

Perhaps Mrs Thatcher's most remarkable statement came when she was asked whether the Government would take action to prevent an invasion by America of Nicaragua. She said: "Sticking my neck out a long way, and my reputation, I do not believe the United States will invade Nicaragua."

The fact they had "gone into Grenada did not make it any more likely that they would go into Nicaragua."

The Prime Minister answering a question from a listener in the programme yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

## US troops mop up as Grenada confronts uncertain future

From Trevor Fishlock, Bridgetown, Barbados

These events, he said, had so horrified Grenadians, the Caribbean and other countries that "certain Caribbean states, with the support of the USA, decided to come to our aid in the restoration of order."

"Intervention by foreign troops is the last thing one would want for one's country. But, in our case, it has happened in deteriorating circumstances representative of the vast majority of the people of Grenada."

Sir Paul said the islanders welcomed the troops as a positive and decisive step. He thanked the Americans and other states for intervening and called on members of the People's Army to surrender their weapons "prior to the formal disbandment of the army."

General Hudson Austin, the revolutionary leader, was on the run and being hunted yesterday. He is thought to be in the jungle and there is a story that he has a woman hostage with him.

Mr Bernard Coard, the former Deputy Prime Minister, Caribbean and other countries that "certain Caribbean states, with the support of the USA, decided to come to our aid in the restoration of order."

The leaders of the revolution are despised by many islanders and, significantly, a Grenadian told American Marines where Mr Coard was hiding and led them there. They surrounded the house, which had an armoured troop carrier parked outside, and called on those inside to surrender. There was no shooting and Mr Coard, his wife and Mr Strachan were taken into custody.

Grenadians show their contempt for the likes of Mr Coard by pinching their cheeks and saying they would like to tear General Austin and Mr Coard to pieces.

Leaders of Caribbean countries are meeting in Bridgetown to assess developments in Grenada and consider who might be in the interim administration and how soon.

Continued on back page, col 3

## Most Americans accept President's judgment

## Reagan's tough line goes down well at home

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The success of the US-led invasion of Grenada - and particularly President Reagan's justification of it in his televised address on Thursday night - has gained the wide spread approval of the American public, with many people contrasting the resoluteness shown by Mr Reagan with former President Carter's indecisiveness during the Iranian hostage crisis.

Despite international condemnation of the invasion, and the strong reservations voiced by many congressmen and the media the *New York Times* said yesterday "a paranoid bully", a series of opinion polls published over the weekend show that the average American shares neither this sense of outrage nor of doubt.

A poll carried out by *The Washington Post-ABC News* shows that 65 per cent of those questioned favoured the invasion compared with 27 per cent against.



Demanding facts: Senators Robert Byrd (left) and Howard Baker (right) were asked to investigate events.



Continued on back page, col 3

Support for the action rose from 52 per cent to 65 per cent after President Reagan's justification of the attack on the grounds that it was necessary to save American lives and prevent the island becoming a Soviet-Cuban military bastion.

An even more impressive, if less scientific, measure of support for the President was provided in a straw poll carried out by the ABC News *Nightline* programme, which recorded and eight-to-one majority in favour of American intervention.

Of a total of 565,000 telephone calls - the greatest number received on a call-in poll since the 1980 debate between Mr Reagan and Mr Carter - 502,000 were in favour of the attack and only 63,000 against.

A poll taken by *The New York Times-CBS News* before the President's broadcast showed even then a majority of Americans supported his decision to use force. But there was a greater degree of confusion about whether this was the best course of action.

For the President, undoubtedly the most important message to emerge from these polls is that the invasion of Grenada appears to have largely dispelled the sense of unease that was building up about the continued presence of American troops in Lebanon in the wake of last Sunday's bomb, which killed at least 230 US servicemen there.

Continued on back page, col 5



Child victim: A young girl injured in the earthquake is carried by a nurse at an Erzurum village.

## Turkish earthquake toll may reach 1,000

From Rasit Gardilek, Ankara

The death toll in the earthquake in eastern Turkey has risen to 495, Turkish television reported last night. There were 316 injured being treated in hospitals in the area.

The report said the authorities feared an even higher toll. Local officials suggested it could exceed 1,000.

The earthquake, measuring six on the Richter scale, struck at 4.15am GMT, catching most of the victims in their beds.

Of the bodies recovered so far, most were in villages in Erzurum province, some 550 miles from here, with others coming from villages in Kars province, further east.

Landslides blocked the railway and several roads in the area, preventing military and civilian rescue teams from reaching at least three villages.

The dispatch of relief aid was also affected, although Turkish Red Crescent officials said tents, blankets and other emergency supplies had been airlifted to the area.

The martial law authorities in the region have forbidden the population in the disaster area from entering their homes for 24 hours. They are having to stay in the open in rain and near freezing temperatures.

Hospitals in the provincial centre of Erzurum were crowded.

The Chamber of Geology Engineers here pointed out that 92 per cent of the country's territory was on one of the most active earthquake belts in the world and called for comprehensive measures to avoid frequent costly disasters. More than 48,000 people have been killed in Turkey in the past 60 years in earthquakes, mostly in eastern and south-eastern Anatolia.

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## Kinnock team is centre right

By Our Political Reporter

Nearly all the top posts in Mr Neil Kinnock's Shadow Cabinet, which will be announced formally today, are to go to figures on the centre-right of the Labour Party.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the party's deputy leader, is to take over as shadow chancellor from Mr Peter Shore, who is to combine the posts of shadow trade and industry secretary and shadow leader of the Commons.

Mr Gerald Kaufman is to become shadow home secretary and Mr Denis Healey will remain shadow foreign secretary.

Mr John Smith is to take over as shadow employment secretary, an appointment which will be welcomed by senior union leaders who regard him as the ideal candidate to lead the fight against the Government's latest union reform legislation.

Dr John Cunningham, elected to the Shadow Cabinet for the first time, receives the biggest promotion of all. He is to take over the post of environment spokesman, formerly held by Mr Kaufman.

Dr Cunningham, one of the most impressive Commons performers in the parliamentary party, finished fifth in the Shadow Cabinet elections.

Mr Kinnock has handled the sensitive decision over the defence portfolio by leaving Mr John Silkin in place. Mr Silkin was re-elected to the Shadow Cabinet in seventh position despite being left of the left-wing Tribune "squad", and it is assumed that he received backing from centre-right MPs.

Mr Shore, who had been reluctant to give up his former post, presented Mr Kinnock with a delicate problem in his first allocation of senior portfolios.

Despite his poor result in the leadership contest, Mr Shore was generally seen as having fought an impressive campaign and a confirmation that his standing among MPs had not diminished came with the shadow cabinet elections, in which he finished in third place.

He was anxious not to take a new job which would be seen as a serious demotion and has clearly been satisfied.

By also securing the shadow Commons leader post, formerly held by Mr Silkin, he will have further entrenched his authority in the parliamentary party.

Dr John Cunningham: Biggest promotion

## Andropov's cold fuels speculation

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The disclosure that Mr Yuri Andropov is suffering from a cold was intended to dampen speculation about the Soviet leader's health but it has had the opposite effect.

The front page of *Pravda* yesterday carried a message from Mr Andropov to a Moscow conference of "world physicians for the prevention of nuclear war". In it he told the conference chairmen, Dr Evgeny Chazov of Russia and Professor Bernard Lown of the United States, that he had followed the proceedings, "but regretfully a cold prevented me from meeting you personally in Moscow". He affirmed Moscow's dedication to peace, adding: "we are prepared for radical solutions, the ball is in the other side's court."

The admission that a leader is ill with a cold might seem unremarkable, if not trivial, in many systems, but in Russia references to the poor health of Kremlin leaders are extremely rare. Last week Dr Chazov, who is Mr Andropov's personal surgeon, said privately that the Soviet leader was "not seriously ill".

Mr Andropov, who is 69, has not been seen in public for two-and-a-half months. He is diabetic and suffers from kidney and heart ailments. Speculation about his health was sparked off last week by the cancellation of his trip to Bulgaria. Informed sources said he had also been due to visit Georgia at the weekend.

There have been persistent rumours of a Warsaw Pact Summit in Moscow, but East European sources say it will not take place as long as Mr Andropov's health is uncertain.

Andropov's offer, page 10

### Fashion in Time

The 150th Anniversary Exhibition of Jaeger-LeCoultre at Garrard, November 2nd - 12th.

"Fashion in Time" is the only public viewing in this world of the Jaeger-LeCoultre 150th Anniversary Exhibition.

On display will be a unique collection of watches and clocks exhibited in the first time, together with the most superb creations, most of which will be available for purchase.

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Saturday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

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# Phones strike spreads as Mercury appeals against blacking

Industrial action against the sale of British Telecom is to spread to five cities today, in an effort to put increased pressure on the Government.

The Post Office Engineering Union, which has mainly concentrated on disrupting communications in London, has called on strike strategic staff in Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Swansea and Glasgow.

The escalation of the dispute comes after speculation that the flotation of 51 per cent of BT may be postponed. A central aim of the action was to make the sell-off less attractive to the Government and potential investors.

The switch in tactics also comes on the day that Mercury, the private communications company, appeals against a High Court decision which backed the union's right to refuse to connect the new commercial system to the public network.

The fresh disruption, with the exception of Glasgow, will affect the maintenance of the new PABX switchboards nor-

mally installed in business offices. It is not meant to disrupt services to the public, the union said.

British Telecom said yesterday that it would do its best to maintain the service. Some members are sceptical about the support for regional action, but the union says that the initiative for further disruption came partly from outside London.

The union, conscious of British Telecom claims that its action has had a minimal effect on telecommunications in the capital, says that management will find it more difficult to cope with the new stoppages.

The union said yesterday: "British Telecom has trained a limited number of engineers to work on the new switchboards so they will have difficulty in getting other staff or management to cope with the breakdowns."

The strike in Glasgow will seek to disrupt the maintenance of an old telephone exchange which is prone to technical faults.

The union executive is due to

meet British Telecom board members later today, when the threatened dismissal of an estimated 39 union members for taking action will be discussed. POEU leaders will assess the situation again tomorrow. The management has threatened to dismiss the 39 unless the union withdraws its campaign of action at its reconvened annual conference next Monday.

It is likely that British Telecom will dismiss all the 2,000 or more union members involved in the dispute unless significant concessions are made.

But any climbdown by the union executive or the conference is unlikely and with another 24-hour strike in London planned this week by the Union of Communication Workers, the dispute is likely to continue.

The British Telecommunications Union Committee, which represents six British Telecom groups, started its £200,000 press campaign against the sell-off at the weekend.

## Privatization strategy

## Pressure grows to delay sale

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Treasury will have to rethink its privatization strategy if the Government is forced to postpone next year's planned stock market flotation of British Telecom, as appears increasingly possible.

Sir George Jefferson, the British Telecom chairman, is understood to have told the Government that it might be better if the flotation, scheduled for next October, was postponed until 1985.

And while the Department of Trade and Industry repeated yesterday that October, 1984 was still the official target, ministers and officials are known to be worried that it may be impractical to complete the issue by then.

The Telecommunications Bill is not now expected to

complete what is likely to be a stormy passage through Parliament next July, leaving only three months at the height of the holiday season to finalize the complex preparations for the stock market's largest flotation.

The planned sale of 51 per cent of BT's shares is expected to raise about £4,000m. Preliminary planning for the issue by two City merchant banks is well under way, but most of the key decisions that will affect its success or failure, such as the corporation's capital structure and key elements of its operating licence are a long way from being resolved.

The growing trade union campaign against its privatization and the misgivings of some

Conservative backbench MPs about the Government's approach are adding to the pressures.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Information Technology at the Department of Trade and Industry, who is responsible for the day-to-day handling of the issue, has acknowledged that the existing deadline is tight.

The department said last night: "The Government is continuing with its intention to go for a sale in 1984. We have not been given any indication that this is an impossible target to achieve."

The Treasury is expected to press strongly for completion on schedule because the proceeds are seen as a key element in the Chancellor's strategy

## Hospital to be refused supply of blood

Health Service unions have cut off supplies of blood to a new private hospital because they fear the blood may be sold to patients or shipped abroad.

The £10m Ross Hall Hospital in Glasgow, owned by American Medical International, is due to accept patients paying up to £190 a day on November 7. It is expected to need 30 pints of blood a day from the Blood Transfusion Service.

But the health unions, backed by the Transport and General Workers Union, are preventing shipment of blood to the 101-bed hospital until the owners sign a contract not to sell it to patients or ship it to other private hospitals in Britain or abroad.

The unions are also demanding that the administration cost of the blood should be recovered from AML.

The "understanding" between the company and the Common Services Agency, which administers and distributes blood, was described by union officers as "totally inadequate".

Mr Gordon Greig, of ASTMS, said: "This is the first profit-making private hospital in Scotland and we have no way of monitoring what happens to the blood."

He said the unions were totally opposed to blood, which was supplied free, being subsequently sold to patients by private hospitals. Donors were continually seeking assurances that their blood would not be sold and the whole issue threatened the future of the Blood Transfusion Service.

Mr Greig accused the Common Services Agency of effectively offering to subsidize Ross Hall by £1,000 a day by not insisting on a legally binding contract.

It is understood that the CSA is sympathetic to the union cause and no blood will be supplied until the dispute is resolved.

The director of Ross Hall, Mr Stuart Byron, denied that the hospital intended to sell blood and said he would be prepared to sign a contract to that effect. But he objected to the CSA imposing a charge for blood.

Last night the hospital began to make alternative arrangements for acquiring blood.



Old timer: Mr Brian Moore and his wife Ruth will be on the road in next Sunday's London to Brighton rally in the oldest privately-owned car ever to enter - an 1891 Panhard at Levens. It is steered by tiller, ignition is by Bunsen burner and top speed is 11 mph. Photograph by Bob Seymour.

## Owen seeks nuclear identity for Europe

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen yesterday called for the development of a firm European identity within Nato, covering conventional and nuclear defence and disarmament.

The Social Democratic Party leader said it was no longer credible to argue that such a development would weaken the American commitment or create strains within Nato. The nature, if not the content, of the American commitment had been changing and the strains existed already, he said.

Dr Owen, who was delivering the Gulbenkian Foundation lecture in Lisbon, said: "One does not have to succumb to the current anti-American and predominant anti-Reagan European mood to conclude sadly that the post-war absolute European confidence in the United States has gone. Many Europeans totally convinced of Nato's value now openly express their anxiety about United States decision-making."

He said that the automatic American political dominance of the Nato forum, justifiable in the aftermath of the Second World War, was no longer underpinned by the weight of its contribution to collective European defence.



Dr Owen: 'Confidence has gone'.

## Britain 'does not need Trident strike power'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

There are said to be at least 10 possible alternative options to the Trident submarine-launched missile system for the modernization of the British independent nuclear deterrent and the capital cost of some of them could be £6,000m less than the cost of Trident.

These are among the conclusions of a study prepared for the Aberdeen University Centre for Defence Studies, published today.

It bases its financial comparisons on the assumption that at present values Trident is likely to cost about £2,000m, compared with the £7,500m which is the Ministry of Defence's official estimate. It is intended that four Polaris-carrying submarines

will be replaced by four much larger submarines carrying the D5 Trident missile in the 1990s.

But the report says that Britain does not need the strike power of a Trident force. It notes that a single Polaris submarine threatens only 16 targets, whereas a Trident submarine could threaten as many as 224.

Part of the increase in strike power arises from the fact that Trident has multiple warheads - multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles - from a single missile can all be guided on to separate targets.

Alternatives to Trident by David Hobbs (Centre for Defence Studies, Edward Wright Building, Dumbarton Street, Aberdeen; £5).

## Guards for contacts of wanted man

From Ronald Faux, Sheffield

Police protection has been extended to several people throughout Britain as the search for Arthur Hutchinson continued yesterday.

The man wanted for questioning in connection with a triple murder in Sheffield last week. The police have described him as very dangerous, a karate black belt who should not be approached by the public.

A South Yorkshire police spokesman said yesterday that several people who Mr Hutchinson, aged 42, might wish to contact were being guarded "round the clock".

Among them is Miss Nicki Laitner, aged 18, the only survivor when an intruder broke into her family's home during the early hours of last Monday. Mr Basil Laitner, his wife Avril and their son Richard were stabbed to death.

It is now known that Mr Hutchinson, sought by police since he escaped from Selby police station a month ago, spent two days last week at a guest house in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, 22 miles away from the Laitner home. While he was there he kept fit by jogging.

The police said that Mr Hutchinson arrived at the guest house less than six hours after the bodies of the Laitners had been discovered and left the following Wednesday.

They believe that he suffered a possibly severe injury to his right leg in his escape from Selby police station. He left bloodstained bandages in the guest house.

When he was last seen he was wearing a dark blue velvet jacket, light blue shirt, blue tie and grey trousers. He also had a turquoise track suit, blue-grey running shoes and a check shirt.

South Yorkshire's Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Bob Goslin, said yesterday that Mr Eddie McGee, the survival expert who helped track down the police killer Barry Prudom, and who knows Mr Hutchinson, had offered his services (the Press Association reports).

## TUC wants job subsidy for regions

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A new multi-million pound labour subsidy and the scrapping of "discredited" enterprise zones are proposed by the TUC in a document on regional policy to be presented to the National Economic Development Council on Wednesday.

The TUC wants all capital subsidies to be selective, rather than the present system which allocates much of the aid money on a geographical basis, and says they should be matched by the labour subsidy, which is intended to boost job creation.

Trade union leaders also want the notion of free ports to be abolished. The Government has agreed to experiment with the idea and Prestwick, Birmingham and Felixstowe are among the sites into which goods could be imported tax free for assembly, packaging or storage before re-export.

The TUC is also urging the Government to tighten inward investment controls so that incoming companies go directly to development areas.

The discussion document has been produced as a result of the Government's latest review of regional policy and ministers' desire that aid for assisted areas is used more effectively.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will present his own paper to the meeting and he will call for the views of the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry.

He believes that regional policy must improve industrial competitiveness and reduce disparities in job opportunities. There are indications that the old assisted areas "map" is out of date.

In the 1970s about 500,000 jobs were created in the assisted areas at an estimated cost of £34,000 a job.

## Pit ballots sought as overtime ban begins

By Our Labour Reporter

Moderate miners' leaders will this week increase pressure on their executive to hold pit-head ballots on the national overtime ban began early today.

The right-wing Midlands area council of the National Union of Mineworkers started the move at the weekend by demanding that the ban be put to the vote. The union's executive is not due to reassess the action until November 10.

The overtime ban in protest at the National Coal Board's first and "final" pay offer of 5.2 per cent was unanimously agreed by a delegate conference in London days ago.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coalboard chairman, is keen on a pit-head ballot because he expects a vote against the ban.

But under NUM rules, only a national strike would require a referendum, and there would have to be a 55 per cent majority to initiate action.

Mr MacGregor believes that the 50 million tonnes of coal stockpiled at pits and power stations will prove an effective argument against militancy.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, contends that a pay rise of 23 per cent is necessary to bring pit men's earnings back to their level after the 1974 strike.

Union strategists also believe that militancy will increase if they can delay a ballot. They predict that the NCB will announce further mine closures in the coming weeks.

The coal board pointed out that in the only ballot so far conducted, at Rufford Colliery near Mansfield, 65 per cent of miners agreed to accept the board's offer.

But a substantial majority voted for the overtime ban on the grounds that it would deter pit closures.

## Divorce to be made quicker

By Robert Morris

Changes in the divorce laws to be announced soon are expected to include provisions for quicker divorces and fewer long-standing financial commitments.

The three main features of a Bill, which may be introduced in the House of Lords next week, are:

A couple may qualify for divorce one year after marriage, instead of three years.

A husband's financial obligations will be directed mainly towards his children, and the wife will be expected, after a period, to provide for herself.

Those who get divorced abroad will be able to claim financial help through the English courts.

The changes, outlined in Law Commission reports, are understood to have been widely accepted, in spite of objections from certain religious groups.

Leading article, page 11

## NUT refuses to join committee on curriculum

The National Union of Teachers has refused to join the new school Curriculum Development Committee set up by the Government to replace the Schools' Council.

Britain's biggest teachers union says that unlike the schools' Council, the new organization will not be truly independent: the union claims teachers will no longer be democratically represented. All members will be appointed by The Secretary of State for Education.

The Department of Education said yesterday that most of the 20 members of the organization would be teachers.

## Union Bill an abuse of democracy, Basnett says

The Government's new trade union Bill is a recipe for industrial relations chaos, and an abuse of democracy, Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, said on Saturday.

Mr Basnett told his union's regional council in Birmingham, that the Government was handing over free trade unions to bureaucrats.

"The purpose of the legislation is quite clear. At a time when the living standards, job security and social wellbeing of working people is under severe attack by this Government, they come forward with another phase in the assault on the

rights and protection of working people.

"Dressed up in democratic camouflage, it is, in fact, the very negation of democracy. It is an attempt to limit even further the right to withdraw labour in this country. It represents an attempt at state regulation of independent trade unions. It is an attempt to bankrupt the main opposition to official strikes."

He said the Bill would lead to more frequent and longer official strikes.

Mr Basnett added: "It is an abuse of democracy for an elected government to use the legal system to attack the basis on which democracy is founded."

## Everyday to the USA.

Everyday of the week, every week of the year, one of the very latest Air-India 747s takes off for New York from London Heathrow. It departs at 1.00pm arriving 3.30pm, New York time.

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## Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The SDP and the Liberals have reached agreement on the wording of a reasoned amendment which will enable them to vote together at the end of today's House of Commons debate on cruise missiles. This may be regarded as smart politics over an example of what Dr Owen has been accustomed to describe as "fudge and waffle" - or possibly both.

It is certainly a political advantage that Alliance MPs are not now expected to be marching into different lobbies on such a critical issue. If that had happened, as seemed likely only a few days ago, the Alliance would have been exposed to ridicule. As had Labour, it would have been said. But the firm of words on which the SDP and Liberal MPs have settled represents nothing more than a superficial tactical manoeuvre. The amendment is designed not to express agreement but to conceal disagreement. The Alliance has managed to come together only by ducking the issue.

Should cruise missiles be deployed in this country or not? The amendment does not say. It declares that Nato should continue to negotiate at Geneva "without weakening its bargaining position": a new initiative from the United States in the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces talks; and urges the British Government to negotiate for a dual key system for any cruise missiles based in this country.

## Serious difference on defence

But none of these propositions provides any reason for the Alliance failing to take a position on the basic question of deployment. Dr Owen told the SDP conference at Salford last month that if the party "made a decision to reject cruise missiles purely and simply on the issue of the dual key... the electorate would see it as a cynical way of treating one of the most crucial defence decisions that has faced this country for many years".

So that cannot be a reason for delaying a decision, unless Dr Owen is prepared to eat his words with quite remarkable speed.

Nor is there any development that could take place at Geneva that would render deployment unnecessary, unless there was to be a zero option agreement. Any other agreement would permit the siting of some cruise missiles in Britain. The Alliance does not, reasonably enough, have the slightest confidence in the possibility of a zero option agreement in the near future. So what justification can there be for delaying a decision?

Apart from narrow political calculation, that is. For some time it has been evident that Dr Owen has been preparing the SDP to accept cruise missiles, while Mr Steel has been preparing the Liberals to reject them.

It reflects a wider and more serious difference between the two parties on defence. They are agreed in opposing Trident. But the approach of the Social Democrats is generally more robust, while within the Liberal Party there is an undercurrent of unilateralist sentiment.

Even on Trident there may be disagreements ahead, because in his speech to the Liberals at Harrogate Dr Owen implied that by the time the next government takes office in about 1987 so much money may already have been spent on the programme that it might make no sense to cancel it.

## Public facade of unity

So long as serious differences on defence remain between the Social Democrats and the Liberals, it will be impossible for either leader to take a forthright line without being accused of splitting the Alliance. It therefore becomes necessary to preserve a public facade of unity by devising forms of words which do not express what either side really thinks.

The thinness of this facade is likely to become apparent soon enough, as different Alliance MPs begin to interpret their amendment today in different ways. No doubt it will be said that this sort of manoeuvre is necessary in politics. But one of the reasons why the founders of the SDP left the Labour Party was that they were not prepared to accept that it was necessary on major issues.

During the general election campaign the Alliance was properly scathing about Labour's confusion on defence, presenting it as a party that could not safely be entrusted with the nation's security. Alliance leaders will not be able to make much play with this issue in future unless they can agree on more than the need to delay exposing their own differences.

Overseas selling prices  
Austria Sch 28; Belgium 28; France 28; Germany 28; Italy 28; Japan 28; Korea 28; Spain 28; Sweden 28; Switzerland 28; Taiwan 28; Thailand 28; UK 28; USA 28; West Germany 28



## Newman's code of ethics to cement contract between police and public

A code of professional ethics is being drawn up for London's 26,700 police officers, Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said yesterday. It would be a "key to success" in making the contract between police and public work effectively.

Sir Kenneth said: "It would be an invaluable asset in helping to maintain public confidence in the police service. Confidence is an essential element in the success of any partnership."

His comments came after the leaking of a confidential report, commissioned by the Metropolitan Police and completed in August, which said there was cause for serious concern about many police practices and that about half of the people in London had serious doubts about police conduct.

Sir Kenneth told the Association of Jewish ex-Service Men and Women that if crime was to be reduced and the quality of life improved, police and citizens must both improve their performance.

"In so far as the Metropolitan Police is concerned, we must honour the conditions on which the public consents to be

policed. A breach of these conditions can usually be dealt with in court or by the provisions of the discipline code.

"Police officers must regard the conditions as a code of professional ethics. Securing citizens' rights has to be a central objective of the police operation, as important as the objectives of detecting crime."

Sir Kenneth said that the most important of those conditions were that a police officer:

Was fair and impartial to all people, whatever social position, race or creed.

Had a compassionate respect for the dignity of the individual and behaved to all with courtesy, self-control, human understanding and tolerance.

Never used more force than necessary to accomplish a legitimate purpose.

Never subjected anyone to any form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Upheld the law he or she was employed to administer and observed the legal process.

Acted with honesty and integrity towards fellow citizens and service colleagues.

Sought at all times to exercise discretion with skill and sensitivity.

Sir Kenneth said the public shared with the police the responsibility for promoting an orderly and peaceful society. That required active cooperation with the police, including upholding and respecting their authority when it was properly exercised; care of property, and promotion of crime prevention schemes.

"There is evidence that police officers sometimes fail to honour the conditions upon which public consent depends. It strikes at the core of police effectiveness."

"On the public side there are also grounds for dissatisfaction."

There was a growing "negative attitude" towards policing, with some people determined to erode the partnership between the public and the police "as a means of creating tension and instability within society", Sir Kenneth said.

"The evidence suggests that if you are young and black and live in the inner city, the ties in the law and order contract with police officers are likely to be at their most tenuous."

## 33 children evicted from council home

By Alan Hamilton

Doors were splintered from their hinges and windows were shattered, and a room that had once been an adolescent boy's only home was stripped bare, leaving only a tattered horror comic, an old forlorn sock and the smashed remains of a transistor radio, strewn upon the floor.

Until last week 33 children lived at The Hollies, a London Borough of Southwark children's home set in leafy parkland in Sidcup, Kent. This large Victorian institution that once housed more than 200 was due to be closed within five years, but it shut suddenly last Thursday night in a scene that more properly belonged in a Dickensian workhouse.

Like the children to whom it was home, The Hollies had become a casualty of the long-running dispute over pay and hours between the social workers who staff the homes and their local authority employers.

While social workers have been refusing to stay on duty at night and at weekends, Southwark has been sending senior non-uniform staff and outside social workers to supervise the children between 6.30 in the evening and 7.15 the next morning. They were given a cooked meal before the regular staff left and were given pocket money to go out for the evening.

But last Wednesday the children revolted, and barricaded their doors against the night staff who had come to keep an eye on them. The next night the children were sitting watching television when a number of social workers arrived and ordered them all out. They were being taken, they said, to other homes. There was no time to grab even a toothbrush.

Scuffles ensued and the police arrived. Twenty of the children were taken briefly to Bexleyheath police station; thirteen melted into the night, mostly to be found soon afterwards; and five stayed away until yesterday.

The police searched the house, breaking down the locked doors of individual bedrooms, and later on Thursday night, council workers arrived to strip the place of its furniture and the children's belongings, supposedly to be returned to them in their new homes.

The house presented a dismal picture yesterday, as though ransacked by burglars.



Home no more: A girl who had lived at The Hollies in despair in a stripped bedroom yesterday. (Photograph John Voos).

## Pupils set up computer link across the world

By Lucy Hodges  
Education Correspondent

A new computer unit opens today at a school in Berkshire, which will enable pupils to get into the computer memory banks of the world.

The children at Garth Hill School, in Bracknell, are making history by opening the first direct international communication link from Britain via Prestel.

During today's opening ceremony, a pupil will make the first connection to the Video Text Communication Link called Postal International between London and Stockholm. This marks the beginning of an international service available to all Prestel users.

Mr Peter Edwards, the county's education director, is to open the centre, which was built by staff and pupils and financed with money raised by parents, teachers and pupils. The centre cost £12,000 and is equipped with 16 BBC micro-computer stations also to be connected to Prestel and to a link giving it access to the international databanks.

Mr Stanley Goodchild, the head, said the centre would be used not only for O and A level computer science, but right across the curriculum. "It will be available for computer assisted learning to help children of all abilities, especially those who have learning difficulties and the high flyers."

Longmans is publishing eight new programs for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum and the BBC microcomputer today, together with parents' notes. The programs are for children aged four to eight and are designed for use by the child alone or with initial parent help.

The programs cover the learning of letters, practice in multiplication tables, number skills and problem-solving.

## Price war threatens late holiday bargains

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Although many package tour companies are offering more foreign holidays for next summer, a dearth of bargain offers late in the booking season is being forecast.

This is because the growing price war is squeezing the tour operators' profit margins and will force them to cut back earlier than usual on the holidays on offer according to travel industry leaders.

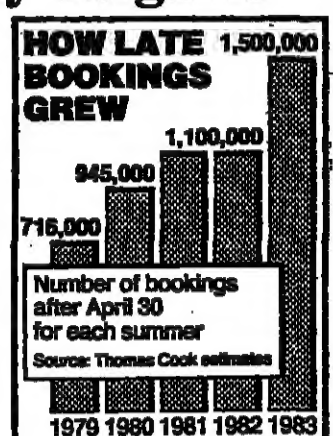
This consolidation of holidays, as it is described within the trade, took its toll on cut-price offers this summer.

Mr Roger Corkhill, managing director of Global Holidays, one of the top six tour operators and a subsidiary of the GUS group, said: "Consolidation on the pattern of this summer is inevitable next year. This is despite the fact that most of us expect the market to grow further again, probably by at least 5 per cent."

Mr Barrett is urging the travel trade to tackle the problem in several possible ways. One suggestion is that holiday companies should offer a "book early" range running alongside an alternative late booking system. Although the late booking offers would be comparatively restricted they could offer a better standard of choice than occurs after large-scale consolidations.

Another option would be a form of voluntary control over the number of holidays on offer to achieve a better balance against expected demand.

Research by Thomas Cook, the travel agency chain which is also a tour operator, shows how a pattern of late bookings has



been established over four years leading this summer to late cutbacks in holiday programmes at an unprecedented level.

Mr Andrew Barrett, group marketing director at Thomas Cook, blames over-optimism by tour operators and fierce fighting for market shares which led to excessive numbers of holidays being ordered. As the number of holidays left on the shelf grew, holidaymakers were encouraged to book progressively later.

He added: "In summer 1983, profit margins had already been cut to the bone. Many companies would not - or could not - pay prices any more and cut their losses with unprecedented consolidations." Many holidays remained at their original price or were "repackaged" to suit the tour operator.

Since 1979, the number of holidaymakers booking package tour holidays after April 30 each year has more than doubled. Late bookings for the past season's holidays rose by 36 per cent compared with 1982.

## Attack on farmers' ploughing

By Rupert Morris

Large expanses of Britain's countryside are being ploughed up in defiance of conservation provisions in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, it was claimed yesterday.

Conservationists argue that the generous compensation arrangements for farmers contained in the 1981 Act are creating new pressures on the countryside.

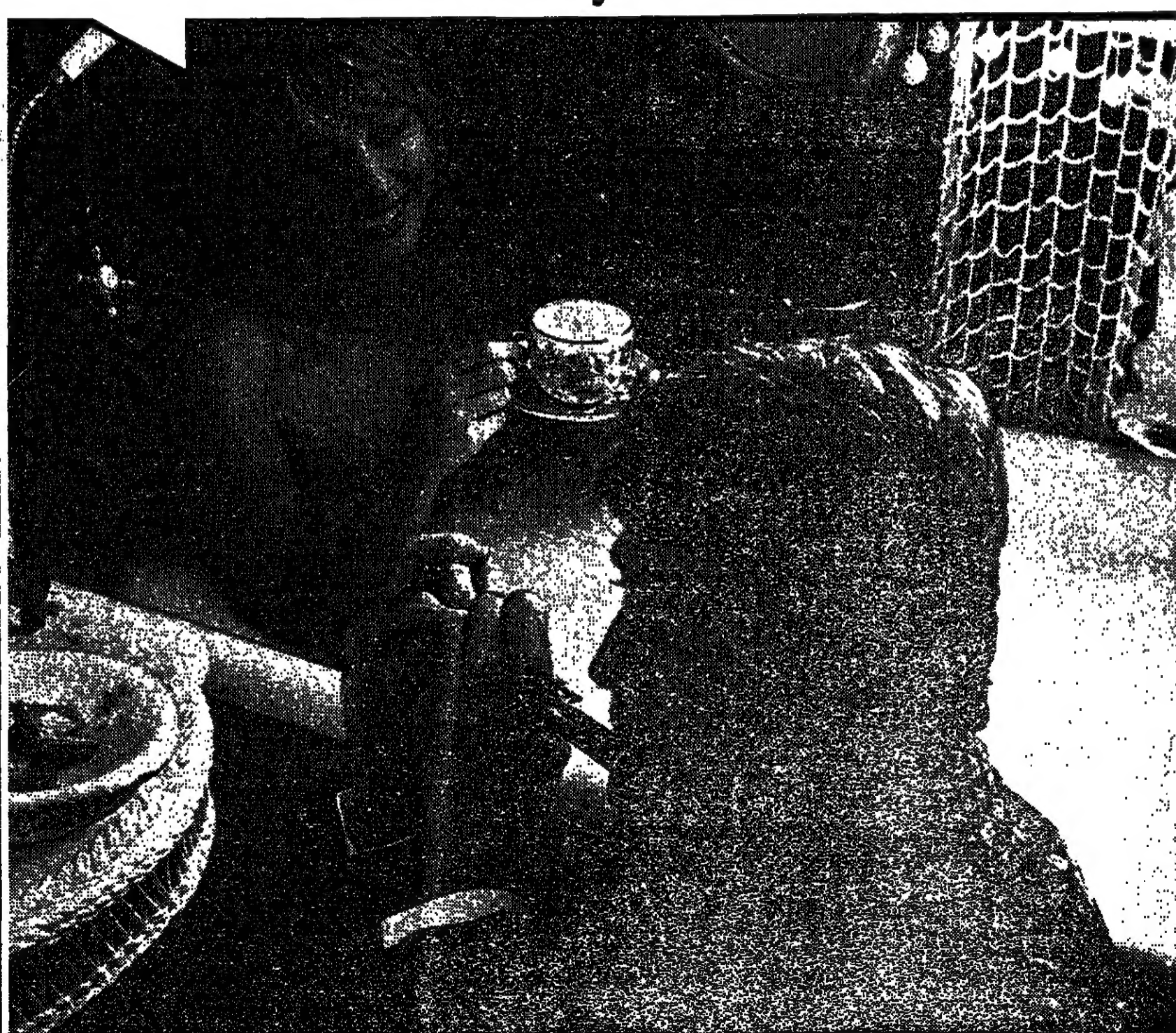
Mr Robin Grove-White, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Miss Fiona Reynolds, secretary of the Council for National Parks, yesterday gave three examples of how farmers get round the act.

In the past 12 months the North York Moors National Park Authority has objected to seven farm schemes and offered management agreements for environmental reasons. In five of the cases farmers have carried out their operations regardless.

Suffolk grasslands are threatened by rapid conversion to cereal farming which has seen grassland in the northern protected area decline by 33 per cent since 1970, and in the Middle Waveney and Deben valleys by 20 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. To protect these three areas would cost £750,000.

In the third example given, companies are being launched to convert marginal lands to arable production, taking advantage of agricultural subsidies and tax relief offered by the Business Enterprise Scheme.

## "And to think I might still be bashing away at Mr Moody's document revisions."

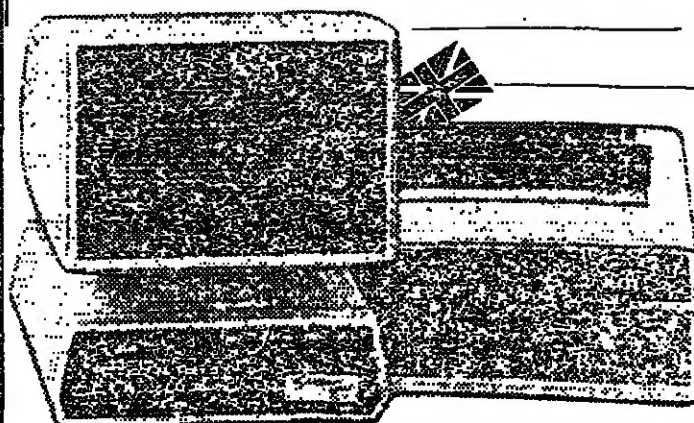


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## TV-am is 'on target to raise £4.5m'

By Kenneth Goeling

The refunding of TV-am, the breakfast television station which now has a head audience of more than a million, is proceeding on target to raise £4.5m in the next fortnight, the station said yesterday.

That was in spite of what the station called a deliberate attempt on Friday by a prospective shareholder trying to jump the queue to invest to undermine confidence in its future.

Revenues next month is expected to exceed £1m, the first time running costs will have been met by income. October advertising was fully sold, bringing in £85,000.

Existing shareholders have

invested an extra £1.7m as part of the new package and Mr Timothy Ashton, chief executive of TV-am, said that meant there was time to ensure an appropriate balance of new shareholders.

Roland Rat, the puppet that lifted TV-am's ratings during the summer, was the object of confusion over a hotel bill for more than £1,000.

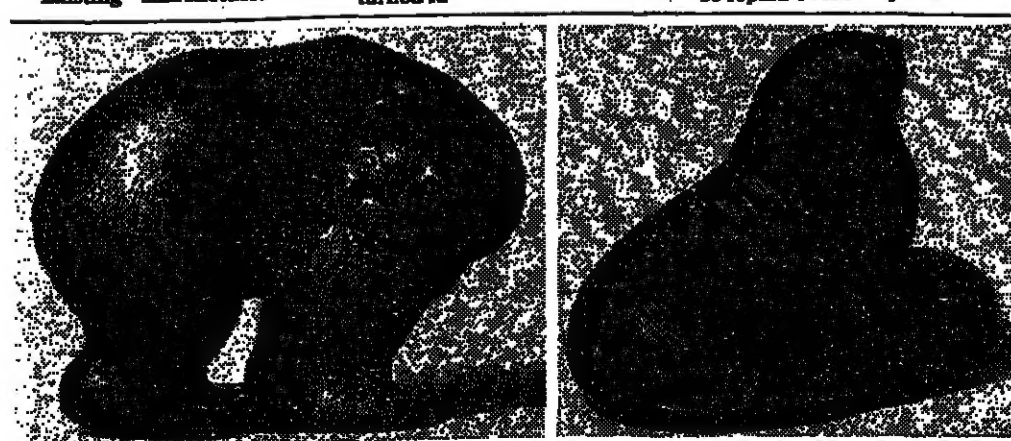
Roland and the nine-man Rat on the Road crew ran up the bill at a Yorkshire hotel and the account was sent to Roland's creator, David Claridge.

He sent it to the station's finance department which returned it.

The station said yesterday that there was some internal confusion but the bill would be paid by the company.

The 15 independent television companies will have to pay an additional £20m between them to cover the costs of Channel 4 next year, it was confirmed yesterday.

Their subscriptions have to include repayments on the loan taken out by the Independent Broadcasting Authority in 1982 to launch Channel 4, about £50m out of a total cost of £89m. This year's Channel 4 bill was £123m, plus £5m interest. The capital and interest has to be repaid over five years.



Tiny treasures: A grizzly bear (left) and seal with pup, carved in the Netsuke style by Michael Webb.

## Carving a reputation for brilliance

By Geraldine Norman

In an old farmhouse in Yorkshire Michael Webb carves wooden miniatures of animals, reptiles and insects following directly in the tradition of eighteenth century Japanese Netsuke carvers.

He is virtually the only full-time, professional Netsuke carver outside Japan, though many amateurs and professional jewellers try their hand at it.

An exhibition of Webb's brilliant little carvings is moving from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to open at the Ekenazy Gallery in Piccadilly, London on Wednesday.

Webb was a director of Sotheby's and head of the furniture department until 1976 when he retired to Yorkshire to carve full time. He had given Sotheby's his expert knowledge, plus the advantage of an artist's eye that knew instinctively both the aesthetic and commercial value of a piece.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he became auctioneer for Japanese art sales, at the time a small and unconsidered byway of Sotheby's business.

Webb began to collect, particularly metalwork, and porcelain. He bought for small sums a collection which would

now be considered "highly important" and he became fascinated with the Japanese culture.

He painted and drew in his spare time and later turned to Netsuke carving.

He now carves about twenty pieces a year, mainly on commission, and sells them for between £200-£1,000. The work in the Ekenazy exhibition has been lent by collectors in the United States, the Far East and Europe. Seven years of quiet carving in his Yorkshire retreat has made him one of the world leaders in his chosen art form.



# Children near nuclear plant have high incidence of leukaemia

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Allegations that the incidence of leukaemia among children in villages within a few miles of the Sellafield (formerly Windscale) nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Cumbria is several times higher than the national average are contained in a television documentary to be shown tomorrow.

The most alarming disclosure is that the number of cases among children under 10 at Sellafield, a village a mile south of Sellafield, is ten times the national average.

When a larger area was surveyed to include the parishes of Warburton and Bootle, the incidence of leukaemia was found to be five times higher than the average.

Plutonium and other radioactive substances which are present only in the waste from nuclear fuel have been found in household dust in the fishing village of Ravensgill, about six miles down the coast from Sellafield.

Levels of radioactive materials on farmland in the area are also said to be above the natural levels of background radiation.

This evidence is to be presented in *Windscale - the Nuclear*

*Laundry* a Yorkshire Television documentary, includes the results of analyses by Dr Philip Day of Manchester University and Professor Edward Radford of Pittsburgh University.

Professor Radford has been a member for more than 15 years of committees on radiation safety advising the American Government and international organizations and is one of the most controversial specialists in this field.

He believes that the level of radioactive waste discharges which most experts recommend as safe for the public or for workers in nuclear plants is too high.

There is no disagreement about the fact that radiation causes cancer. The argument has two main elements. The first is over the amount of different types of radioactive waste material which should be tolerated in the environment and the handling of nuclear fuel.

The radioactive substances created in nuclear fuel in power stations, such as plutonium, americium, caesium, ruthenium, iodine, and strontium, emit different types of radiation.

Some of these elements also

accumulate in specific tissues such as the lung, thyroid, bone marrow, liver and kidney and form a concentrated source of radiation there. The degree of risk associated with particular radioactive elements therefore varies.

The problem is compounded because the alpha-radiation from a substance like plutonium makes it more likely to initiate a cancer than a different type of radiation from another substance.

Plutonium is regarded as the most poisonous of the substances because less than a millionth of a gram of plutonium is likely to be the source of a cancer of the lung.

The second part of the argument is whether there is some threshold below which no cancer effect is produced by radiation. That idea would presuppose that some repair mechanism is available to the body.

However, there is no evidence for that supposition and therefore most safety policies assume the possibility of a "linear effect" between radiation dosage and the risk of cancer.

## Jews renew appeal on grant aid for school

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Mr Robert Dunn, the new minister in charge of schools, today meets a lobby which has been battling for the past 15 years to win government support for a voluntary aided Orthodox Jewish school to be established in Stamford Hill, north London.

A member of the deputation will be Rabbi Abraham Finter, assistant principal of Yesodey Hatorah School and a Labour member of Hackney Council, who says he does not see why the Jewish community should not receive similar aid for its schools as that given to Roman Catholic grant aided schools.

As it is, the practising orthodox Jewish community has set up its own private schools, such as the Yesodey Hatorah, which is run on little money and lacks proper buildings formerly a Roman Catholic home for unmarried mothers, which is overcrowded and has broken windows covered in corrugated iron.

Yet the Orthodox community, including the Chasidic sects from Eastern Europe and Russia, chooses to send its burgeoning younger generation to such a school because it is run on strict lines. The sexes are segregated, with the girls receiving a different education from the boys, and half of every day is devoted to Hebrew studies.

An application for the girls' primary section of the school to receive voluntary aided status was turned down last year by Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for Education.



Rabbi Abraham Finter with pupils in the girls' primary section of the Yesodey Hatorah school (Photograph: John Voos).

on the grounds that Hackney already had too many places in primary schools and that an extra school would cost £300,000 a year.

His other reason was that the school did not conform to education regulations and he was not convinced it would be able to if voluntary aided status were granted. He did, however, encourage the school to put in another application and said that he recognized there was "a substantial and genuine demand for single sex voluntary-aided Jewish school places in the London borough of Hackney."

Yesodey Hatorah has accordingly made a new application. It is being opposed by the Inner London Education Authority, which opposed the previous application on the ground that it has too many places, but also because the ILEA inspectors do not approve the schemes of work and teaching methods used. It adds that insufficient teaching staff are recognized as qualified by the Department of Education and Science.

The authority has philosophical and political objections about which it has not been so open. A private paper to the ILEA Labour group from Mr Bryn Davies, the former

ILEA leader, said that the principles of some religions (as interpreted by some sects) are difficult to reconcile with socialist aspirations. "For example, Orthodox Jews insist on the segregation of the sexes from three years old and this continues in the work place. Inevitably women are bound to have unequal opportunities as men have traditionally occupied positions of wealth and power."

Mrs Ruth Gee, deputy leader of the ILEA and Hackney's representative on the authority, said that to grant voluntary-aided status to one Jewish school might open the flood-

gates because there are thought to be 30 Orthodox schools in Stamford Hill. She emphasized that her attitude was not one of discrimination, as has been alleged by Rabbi Finter. More than 3,000 Jewish children go to such schools in north London and pay very little in fees. If their parents have enough money they pay £12.50 a week at the Yesodey Hatorah, but if they do not they can pay as little as £3 for six children.

"We do not want to be an independent school," Rabbi Finter says. "On the fees we charge it is impossible to maintain the school properly."

## Fresh calls for Kincora inquiry

From A Staff Reporter, Belfast

Politicians in Northern Ireland yesterday renewed their demands for a judicial inquiry into the Kincora boys' home, sexual scandal, in spite of a report clearing the Royal Ulster Constabulary of a cover-up.

Members of the province's assembly said the report by Sir George Terry, former Chief Constable of Sussex, who opposed further investigation into the affair, left important questions unanswered.

There was also criticism of the RUC for publishing the report's findings on Sunday morning in what was seen as a clear attempt to minimize publicity.

The politicians claim that Sir George exceeded his brief by criticising the social services and making recommendations for an inquiry within that service. Some suspect that, by making such wide-ranging comments he would enable the Government to declare that there was little purpose for a full inquiry.

One politician said: "The whole thing down to the timing of its release, which appears to have been done so that by the time people could comment in detail the story will be old news makes me very suspicious of government intentions."

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will decide on his return from the United States whether to set up an inquiry.

He will have to balance the politician's demands against Sir George's conclusion "that there is no need for effort and time to be expended on further inquiries into this rather distasteful matter."

Sir George says in his report that further investigations would provide an "undesirable platform" for those with self-interested motives or political or religious interests.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has also decided that there is no basis for further

criminal proceedings. But Mr Prior's view is that there should be no lasting public disquiet, and he will be judging reaction across the province.

The Northern Ireland Office is aware that further unsubstantiated allegations might be made at a public inquiry, and that such an inquiry could cost more than £1m.

Sir George's report into the RUC's handling of the Kincora scandal clears the force of a cover-up.

The inquiry arose from newspaper reports which led to three members of the staff at the Kincora boys' home in east Belfast being jailed for attacks on children in care.

Sir George criticizes the police for failing to act on information received in the mid-1970s.

He also condemns the social services for "a high degree of naivety, incompetence and, in some instances, an avoidance of responsibility."

## Assaults inquiry at the Maze

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Police are investigating allegations that prison officers stripped and beat a republican inmate at the Maze jail after the escape of 38 Provisional IRA prisoners last month.

The prison authorities are also looking into numerous other complaints of ill-treatment and assault of H-Block inmates in the days after escape. But the Northern Ireland Office "denied that police were investigating claims of ill-treatment of 90 H-Block prisoners."

The investigations were started by the Maze governor, Mr Ernest Whittington, after Father Denis Faul complained

that some prison officers had virtually mutilated after the break-out.

Desmond Armstrong, a republican prisoner from west Belfast, told Father Faul at Mass that he had been in a room in the food van hijacked by the escaping prisoners. He claimed that he was identified to a group of prison officers as innocent in the break-out, but a second group of officers refused to accept that. He said that he and three recaptured prisoners were dragged along the floor, stripped and beaten.

He claimed that he lost two teeth when he was hit across the mouth with a baton

The Northern Ireland Office denied the allegations, at the time saying Armstrong had been injured during the escape and had had dental treatment to remove two of his teeth.

The prison authorities are conducting internal inquiries into claims that republican prisoners were attacked by prison officers and bitten by guard dogs in revenge for the break-out. The Northern Ireland Office has consistently denied this.

A report into the break-out by Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons in Great Britain, is expected to be completed next month.

## Sales of NHS land hit by legal ruling

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Problems over government policy to sell off surplus land are disclosed in a letter to an MP from Mr John Patten, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health.

The letter, which must have been written with the knowledge of Mr Patten's chief, Mr Norman Fowler, reflects dismay at the Government's policy is being frustrated by a ruling by its law officers.

The law officers ruled in March that planning permission cannot be obtained for Crown land before sale. This means that land may realize less than its market value.

The ruling was made by the Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, the then Solicitor General, Sir Ian Pervival, QC, and the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, QC.

Now Mr Patten has written to Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, who disclosed the issue, saying: "There is no doubt that the law officers' opinion represents a serious setback to the land disposal programmes of health Authorities, and could cost the National Health Service dearly."

The Department of Health is being frustrated in its attempt to obtain early legislation to change the ruling. Mr Patten writes: "We have been pressing Patrick Jenkin (Secretary of State for the Environment) to initiate legislation to amend the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, so that it would be legal for the Crown to apply for statutory planning permission."

But, although the need for legislation is accepted, "it has not been possible as yet to include it in the programme of legislation proposed in 1983/84."

"We know the situation is unsatisfactory and will continue to do all we can to secure legislation at the earliest possible date, but we have to recognize the constraints of the legislative timetable."

Meanwhile, health authorities will have to seek a planning "indication" rather than formal permission.

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## Radio 4 can save electricity by remote control

Britain wastes £20m of the £100m it spends a day on energy. Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, launches a conservation programme to cut waste today. David Young, Energy Correspondent, starts a three part series examining how much has been achieved in the 10 years since oil prices soared and how much is left to do. He starts at home.

Domestic electricity consumers could save more than £1,400m a year, the cost of the proposed Sizewell nuclear power station, by tuning into Radio 4, if experiments by two electronic manufacturers are successful.

GEC and Sangamo Schlumberger have developed a "Radio Teleswitch" which enables non-essential appliances to be switched off at peak times by coded signals transmitted on Radio 4. By the end of the year 3,000 homes will be connected.

"Radio Teleswitch" and "Mainsource", which is developed by Thorn-EMI, will provide the household with an instant print-out of the cost of energy consumption.

The Thorn-EMI system, which uses meters monitored through mains cables, will be fitted to 1,000 homes by the end of the year.

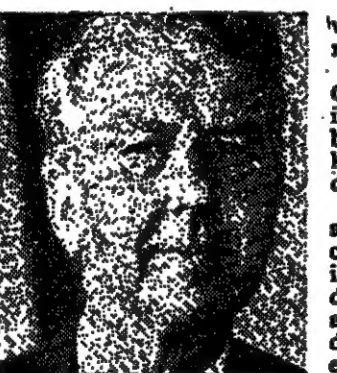
The Royal Institute of British Architects Energy Group has found that domestic and industrial users are often unaware of the energy consumed in homes and offices. A meter giving easily-read information on the cost rather than the units burnt would soon lead to cutbacks.

One idea before the Department of Energy is a meter with an alarm which can be set each week to ring when a predetermined total cost is reached.

The system will also allow electricity boards to control supplies so that energy can be saved and the best use made of the power network.

It is estimated that installing either system could cost between £80 and £90, less if incorporated in new buildings. It would pay for itself within two years.

The Thorn-EMI system is



Mr Walker: New conservation programme.

under trial at a cost of £3m, shared by the company, the gas and electricity industries and the Department of Trade and Industry. A scheme involving up to 100,000 homes may follow at a cost of £20m.

However, the RIBA Energy Group has said that such cost saving installations depend on householders accepting that a maintenance programme, covering the building's fabric and the control equipment, would have to be followed. RIBA has encountered

widespread resistance to maintenance programmes.

Mr Hugh Morris, Energy Group chairman, said: "People in Britain still think that a building can be put up and then left in all weathers without deteriorating."

"For that reason architects also feel that the UK domestic consumer is not yet ready to invest in heat pumps, which draw warm air from the atmosphere even on the coldest day and feed it into the home, either as ducted heating air or to pre-heat water supplies for conventional central heating systems."

Ironically most of the experiments will be conducted in homes in Milton Keynes, already among the most energy efficient in Britain, thanks to new insulation techniques incorporated at the design stage, but the lesson learnt could be applied nationwide.

Since the first energy-saving campaign highlighted the importance of loft-insulation, water-jacket lagging and cavity insulation, several householders, whose energy consumption has been closely

monitored, have been found to be using as much as 20 per cent less electricity and gas.

Architects working with local authorities have also found that the people who could benefit most from conservation schemes are those who can least afford insulation.

The Department of Energy grants system has helped in that area, but schemes most likely to bring large benefits are those which will make use of home computers, involving the household paying up to £150 for a computer program to analyse in his home.

The program has been developed at the University of California. It can rapidly tell a householder what financial benefits can be achieved by loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and double glazing.

Trials in Britain have centred on two "typical" homes; the first is a 15-year-old two-bedroom bungalow in Manchester, the second a three-bedroom semi-detached house in a north London suburb.

Tomorrow: Conservation and industry

## Jobcentres 'advertising illegal pay'

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Jobs at illegally-low wages are being advertised by government Jobcentres, the Low Pay Unit says in a report today.

Some are as much as £40 short, the unit finds in a study entitled *Bob-a-Jobcentres*.

The research was concluded at seven of the largest employment offices in the West Midlands but the authors, Mr Steven Winyard and Raghib Ahsan, say the situation in some other regions is likely to be significantly worse.

They conclude: "We have the absurd position of the Department of Employment employing wages inspectors to enforce legal minimum rates of pay while another part of the government employment service is advertising jobs at less than the statutory minimum."

"More starkly this means that government Jobcentres are unwittingly assisting employers in a criminal act."

The survey concentrated on jobs in clothing, catering, shops, hairdressing and laundries, all occupations covered by wages council rulings.

It was found that out of 20 wage council jobs posted below the legal rate and some were "far short" of it. One West Bromwich clothing firm was advertising for an experienced machinist at £50 for 59 hours work, £42.60 below the minimum.

The report, which has been submitted to the Manpower Services Commission and to Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, calls for urgent action.

## Church link has little effect on charity support

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Most people are willing to give to charities, according to a survey for Christian Aid.

Church affiliations have almost no measurable impact on attitudes to overseas aid and many people with right-wing opinions are happy to support Christian Aid, regardless of its more left-wing association.

The survey, details of which were published yesterday, found that money for charity was received more often than because someone happened to be collecting for it. The cause which seemed least popular was cancer research, because of its association with experiments on animals.

The director of Christian Aid, Dr Charles Elliott, commenting on the survey, said it would be possible to raise far more money from the public by sentimental appeals for "starving black babies", but this would not be acceptable to the charity's development partners, the church agencies in the Third World which dispersed the funds.

People generally had a good opinion of Christian Aid,

## Milkmen fight imports from Europe

Britain's milkmen are have started a campaign to try to prevent the import of milk from Europe next month.

Millions of leaflets are being distributed with the daily milk claiming that a flood of cheap imports could mean the end of the traditional delivery service and the loss of more than 50,000 jobs.

The milkmen are also angry with Mr Michael Sopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who they accuse of "betraying the economic facts of life in the dairy industry."

The ministry introduced regulations in the Commons last Wednesday, allowing imports into Britain from November 16. The Government has been under intense pressure to allow imports after the European court ruling earlier this year that its ban on long life milk was illegal.

The Government has always insisted that the ban was necessary to protect both human and animal health in the United Kingdom because foreign dairies did not meet the high standards

## Tax relief 'will not spring poverty trap'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Raising the income tax threshold is an expensive and ineffective way of tackling the "poverty trap", according to the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies, which recommends radical changes in the rules for claiming tax relief and social security benefits.

Mr John Kay, the institute's director, told a conference last

week that increasing tax allowances by £500 for single people and £800 for married couples, a rise of a quarter, would cost more than £4,000m. But only 8 per cent of those who would no longer pay tax would be working heads of households. Most would be pensioners, working wives and young people, the Institute

says. The impact on the poverty trap, where people are little better off if they earn more because of extra tax and loss of social security benefits, would be small, Mr Kay says. Fewer than 10 per cent of those facing "tax" rates of more than 60p on each additional pound earned would be helped.



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## French Socialists close ranks and defer to left-wing pressure

From Diana Geddes, Bourges-en-Bresse

It was with tangible relief that a previously divided Socialist Party closed up its seventh biennial conference in Bourges-en-Bresse near Lyons, yesterday, under a single motion setting out the policies that will take the party almost up to the all-important parliamentary elections in 1986.

After overnight deliberations behind closed doors lasting nearly 11 hours, representatives of the three main factions emerged yesterday morning grey-faced and bleary-eyed, but happy. They announced they had managed to overcome their differences to produce a single composition.

The new 10,000-word motion, put to the congress and approved unanimously by the 1,400 delegates, differed little from the motion put forward originally by the "Courant 1", the majority centrist faction dominated by the Mitterrandists, but supported by the previously separate groups led by M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, and M. Michel Rocard, the Agriculture Minister.

There was nevertheless, a marked shift of emphasis in certain paragraphs in deference to demands by the left-wing. Ceres facilitated by M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the former Industrial Minister. As a result, the party's already highly critical attitude towards the United States was hardened. The desire of achieving domestic economic growth despite the recent crisis, was reinforced.

A suggestion in the original motion that despite its independent stance world affairs, France was "indifferent, ideologically, politically and strate-

gically from the US and the USSR" was deleted.

The motion continued: "France's voice in world affairs is different from that of the US. Its active contribution is a decisive factor in the evolution of events. There are disagreements with the US concerning its ultra-protectionist trade policies, its selfish monetary policies, its adventurist policies in Central America and in the Caribbean, as illustrated by the military invasion of Grenada, its ambiguous policy in West Africa, its errors in the strategic arms talks, and its arms race."

Pressure by the Ceres also led to a weakening of the party's firm stand on the deployment of missiles in Europe. The wording of the original motion was changed from: "We cannot accept that the USSR keep what it has deployed, and at the same time the non-deployment of American missiles..." to: "We cannot accept that the USSR keep the essential elements of what it has deployed..."

The party's success in achieving its own unification will enable it to approach with greater confidence the forthcoming talks with its partners in government, the Communists, on the issue of the increasingly critical stance adopted by the Communists.

Apparently on the orders of President Mitterrand, M. Lionel Jospin, the party's first secretary, used the conference to issue the strongest warning yet to the Communists to stop their sniping at the Government. At the same time, he emphasized the critical importance of preserving the "Union of the Left" with the Communist party.

## Reagan attempts to outflank Kremlin

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

With barely a month to go before the first of the new American medium-range missiles are deployed in Britain and West Germany, President Reagan has urged the Soviet Union "finally to negotiate seriously" in Geneva.

The President in his weekly radio broadcast was responding to the offer of President Andropov made last week to reduce the number of Soviet medium-range missiles in the European theatre to 1,400, lower figure than the Soviet Union had previously proposed.

President Reagan said the Soviet Union had not formally presented its offer.

However, the State Department has already poured cold water on the latest Soviet initiative, saying it was a new attempt by Moscow to split the US from its NATO allies.

It is clear that the US and the Soviet Union are engaged in an intense propaganda contest in the remaining weeks before deployment of the Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles begins.

The American believe the Andropov offer is timed to overshadow the decision in Ottawa last week to dismantle 1,400 Soviet nuclear weapons in East over the next five years.

It also coincides with the United States' invasion of Grenada. This has been out to be a propaganda effort for the Soviet Union, while the United

### Pope's plea

The Pope has sent a message to President Reagan and President Andropov, expressing his anxiety about the international situation and calling for further efforts at negotiating an arms agreement in Geneva (Peter Nicholls writes from Rome). He gave news of the message at the closing session on Saturday of the bishops' synod. The Pope told the bishops of his fears about growing differences and the "menacing" conflicts already taking place.

States has not only been shown to be the aggressor but to have taken the decision to use force against the advice of its closest European ally, Britain.

In his broadcast, President Reagan said the decision to scrap 1,400 weapons "stands in stark contrast to the actions of the Soviet Union". He said that, while the United States will have reduced its nuclear arsenal in Europe by one third since 1979, the Soviet Union had added more than 200 medium-range SS20s, carrying a total of 600 warheads, during that period.

Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister, today starts two days of talks with Soviet officials in Moscow. He will have four hours of talks with his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, expected to focus on the negotiations in Geneva (Christopher Follett writes).

## Wafd wins right to fight

The Administrative Court rejected the claim that the party had disbanded voluntarily in 1978.

The Wafd, originally a popular liberal and nationalist movement in the 1920s, was dissolved after the 1952 revolution when Nasser created a one-party state.

## First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st November 1983 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 10 1/2%.



Crisis of identity: Argentine police controlling Saturday's rush for the identification cards needed to vote in the elections.

## High turn-out as the voting starts in Argentina

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Voting in Argentina's general election started smoothly yesterday with signs of an extremely high turnout. The elections are the first held in 10 years of military rule.

Earlier, the Government lifted the state of siege which

had been in force since November, 1974. In a televised speech, General Reynaldo Bignone, the outgoing President, called for calm and national reconciliation, and announced that the hand-over of power to the new civilian authorities could be brought forward.

Although General Bignone did not name a date, it is

believed that the civilian administration could be sworn in around mid-December, rather than at the end of January.

The Peronists, one of the two front-runners in the presidential race, closed their campaign with a mass rally on Friday night attended by more than a million supporters in the centre of Buenos Aires. Two days earlier

the radicals closed their campaign in Rosario, the country's third largest city, with a rally attended by more than 300,000 people.

Summing up the general satisfaction, the mass circulation newspaper, *Clarín*, carried a banner headline saying: "We've arrived."

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Kenneth Kendall

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50	£5.92	£11.84	£17.76	£23.68	£29.60	£35.52
51	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
52	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
53	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
54	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
55	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
56	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
57	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
58	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
59	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
60	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
61	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
62	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
63	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
64	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
65	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
66	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
67	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
68	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
69	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
70	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
71	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
72	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
73	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
74	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
75	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
76	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
77	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
78	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
79	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52
80	5.92	11.84	17.76	23.68	29.60	35.52

The net premiums above show tax relief currently at 15%.

\*This plan not available in WA to these age groups. No policyholder may have more than the maximum units indicated above in one or more policies of this type whenever available. While Seniorplan is issued only up to age 80, your protection can continue for your entire lifetime.

## 'Humbled' Kaunda is sworn in for fifth presidential term

From Stephen Taylor, Lusaka

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia was sworn in for a fifth term at a ceremony in front of the colonial High Court building here yesterday, having received 93 per cent of votes cast in Thursday's election.

The only candidate for the Presidency, he was driven from State House along avenues lined by flame trees to hear the poll result announced by Chief Justice Annet Silongwe. Fewer than 500 people attended the ceremony, but the vote represented an emphatic renewal of President Kaunda's five-year mandate, and he declared himself "overwhelmed and humbled".

The percentage poll was estimated at 63 per cent, compared with the 67 per cent of registered voters who cast ballots at the last election in 1978, when "KK", as he is popularly known, received about 81 per cent of the votes. None of the 125 constituencies recorded a majority of "No" votes compared with seven in 1978.

The election was remarkable, in that for the first time since Zambia's independence from Britain 19 years ago there was no alternative to "KK", even in the background. A former senior presidential adviser remarked with startling candour at the weekend: "Before we had to take care of the opposition. This time it just faded away."

The results for the parliamentary elections were not yet

available last night but a number of MPs and ministers were thought likely to lose their seats in a voter reaction to increasing economic austerity.

In an interview with *The Times* on Saturday, President Kaunda said that Unip, the sole legal political organization, would be examining electoral reform and he did not rule out the possibility of independent candidates being allowed to stand for Parliament. Although that might endanger party candidates, it would be welcomed by urban voters who see the Unip party structure, particularly the Central Committee.

President Kaunda said "Fortunately, Zambians speak their minds, and if the people want in opt for a new system they will say so. At present they are supporting the system. But you cannot get away from these people. They will see through you."

On the relative openness of Zambian society, he said "It is a great safety valve we have, to speak freely on any issue."

He declined to be drawn on the future of seven people, including Mr Valentine Musakanya, former Governor of the Bank of Zambia, under sentence of death for treason. Their appeal is under consideration, but there is strong speculation in diplomatic circles that, even if it is turned down, President Kaunda will exercise his right to grant clemency.

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Invasion aftermath ● Island relieved but not jubilant ● Administrators assemble

# Bemused Grenadians hope Americans will not overstay welcome

From Trevor Fishlock, Frequent, Grenada

## Surinam orders Cubans out

The islanders are bemused. Machine-gun fire, with a sound like a tiger's growl, pours from an aircraft circling the jungle-covered hills, helicopters clatter, and jeeps full of soldiers with green-painted faces, bounce through lanes ablaze with bouganvillea.

Wide-eyed children suck their thumbs and their parents sit on their porches in a puzzled, chins-in-hand way.

People are relieved, not jubilant. They are pleased the Americans are here, but they hope they will be gone in six months. There is a desperate longing for political stability.

"It's as if the garbage man has come and taken the rubbish away," Mr Benjamin John, a haulage contractor, aged 29, said. "We're glad the Americans came. This island has been like a prison for five years. Now we have a chance to get out of the mess," he added.

People like Mr John have a tolerant view of Mr Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister murdered in the coup. "He was a good man in his way. He was a Marxist, but not extreme and he was coming more moderate. That's why they killed him. He was a big loss to Grenada. If he were alive, he would easily win an election."

The Hague (AFP) - Surinam has ordered the expulsion of more than 100 Cuban diplomats and advisers, the Dutch news agency ANP reported here yesterday.

Quoting a senior Surinam official, ANP said the order would affect about 25 diplomats and 80 advisers assigned to various ministries and the militia. Surinam sources said the invasion of Grenada had contributed to the decision.

In Port of Spain, The Cuban Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, Señor Ivan César Martínez, said that the Caribbean involvement in the invasion of Grenada will not affect Cuban-Caribbean relations, because it was in reality an act of U.S. aggression. He denied there were still 500 Cubans fighting in the mountains.

There is profound hatred for Mr Bernard Coard and General Hudson Austin, who brought down Mr Bishop. "Everyone in this island would like to shred them into little pieces," Mr Martin Lewis, an ice-cream seller, said, as his neighbours nodded enthusiastic agreement.

Mr Vincent Samuel, a customs officer, said: "We're an easy-going people. We would never make good Communists, because we like doing what we want. Our army was indoctrinated by Cubans and the Marxists tried to indoctrinate the people. We had political classes every Friday in my department, but I used to skip them."

Grenadians I talked to, seem to have been affronted rather than angered by the presence of Cubans and the activities of local Marxists. They are just rude pigs, those people," one man said. "You know what they tried to tell us? They tried to tell us there was no God. But if there's no God, who breathes life into us? Were they trying to tell us it was old Castro?"

These discussions took place in the village of Frequent, a few miles from the Cuban-built airstrip at Point Salines, in the south. This is the site of one of the American forces' initial objectives. It is now their greatest prize, a compound of six warehouses containing their weapons, ammunition and other supplies.

There was a fierce battle for possession of the compound and troops are now dug in with machine-guns pointing out of the warehouses. While we were under attack, a soldier opened fire. A soldier died for cover. Such attacks are a persistent menace to the soldiers.

There are hundreds of boxes of ammunition, mortar rounds, a variety of rifles, including Russian weapons, pistols and machine guns. There are also spares and food. One warehouse is full of boxes of overalls, hats, shirts and socks. Some of these garments are scattered on the floor along with dozens of pencils inscribed *Hecho en Cuba*. Among all this, curiously enough, lies a single cricket boot.

"There's enough here to outfit seven battalions," an army captain said. The Americans see this place as evidence that the Cubans were up to no good in Grenada, and that it is part of the justification for their invasion.

"We're here to stop the Cubans oppressing the Grenadians," a sergeant said. "It's not an excuse, it's a damned good reason. The people are grateful to us. You can see it in their eyes."

The Americans showed us around a wooden hut on the compound which they described as a propaganda centre. They seemed excited by it but the contents were not impressive. There are handwritten posters extolling the revolution, photographs of Cuban troops in training, copies of *Soviet Weekly*, pictures of President Fidel Castro, a paperback called *The Civil War in Russia*, and a pamphlet written by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko.

Not far from here, on a hillside overlooking the airstrip they had been building, 600 captured Cubans sit and wait behind barbed wire, guarded by soldiers. They have a good view of what is now the busiest airstrip in the Caribbean, watching transport aircraft bring in stores, artillery and reinforcements. Troops are dug in around the airstrip in great strength.

The Cuban prisoners live in four large wooden buildings and in tents. They sit hunched in attitudes of resignation. They told us they were all construction workers but that their military training had made them familiar with weapons. They said they had decided themselves that they would fight if the Americans landed. In the event, they fought until they ran out of ammunition.

The American troops look well pleased with themselves. They are gratified that the local people are pleased to see them. "We had a good old fight with the enemy, just like the old days," a soldier said, describing an action. "It was a good training mission," an officer said.

Vice-Admiral Joseph Metcalf III, who is in charge of the operation, is the epitome of the happy warrior. At a news conference at the airstrip he wore a baseball cap and talked with finger-jabbing gusto. He seemed exultant.

He said he had seen the recently arrested Mr Bernard Coard. "He looked pretty fat to me," the admiral said. "I did not speak to him. I scowled at him."

He concluded the conference by saying, with a broad grin: "Thank you, gentlemen. Go get 'em."

It is plain that the admiral feels it is quite a satisfactory little war.

## Technocrat team will assist Scoon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A team of highly trained technocrats is being assembled by the Commonwealth to help Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, pull his country out of its present crisis.

That was the top priority facing Mr Sonny Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who summoned his principal aides to a contingency planning meeting at his Marlborough House headquarters in London last night.

Sir Paul is said to favour a non-party technocratic administration of the island in advance of free elections, in the interests of national unity.

The first of about 12 experienced administrators, who are likely to include Grenadians living abroad and representation from Whitehall, should arrive at St George's the capital, by the end of this week.

All will be seconded by their Governments and the enterprise will be financed by the Commonwealth fund for Technical Cooperation, according to Marlborough House sources.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, now a central figure in the diplomatic coming and going which has followed last Tuesday's invasion of Grenada, cancelled a planned trip to Malaysia and spent all weekend on the telephone instead, negotiating with the heads of Commonwealth countries.

Sir Paul Scoon's priorities were spelt out in a conversation with the Secretary-General on Saturday afternoon - 24 hours after Mr Ramphal had discussed the options with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

Last night Sir Geoffrey left for Rome and a bilateral meeting today on the forthcoming EEC Summit in Athens.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Defence, underlined British reluctance to become involved in a guerrilla war in Grenada when questioned on the *World This Week* on BBC Radio 4 yesterday.

"How long it will take the Americans to really establish complete security in the island remains to be seen. The degree of security that can be established before the Americans leave is going to be a significant factor for us in judging at what point a Commonwealth force should come in and the extent of British participation."

The Foreign Office said last night that 35 British people had now left Grenada. The last planeload, flown out by the Americans, had included all but one of the 18 Plessey Group engineers who had been supervising the construction of Grenada's controversial new airport at Point Salines.

Mr Tony Devereux rejected the American claim that the airport was being built for military use by Cuba.

Battle fatigue: Dr Alison Brooks, aged 25, of London, arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday after being evacuated from Grenada with US medical students. "I haven't slept for nearly eight days. The helicopter evacuation happened suddenly and we had to run for it. All I've got are the clothes I'm wearing. Anti-aircraft missiles were being used when we saw helicopters being shot down," she said.

War games: Guards playing pool in Grenada, with captured Cubans in the background, and (below) a wave from a Beirut bomb victim arriving in the US.



## Castro accuses Pentagon of Yankee fantasy and panic

From Richard Williams, Havana

Cubans held prisoner by US forces on Grenada will be allowed to leave as soon as the sniping stops, President Fidel Castro says he has been told by Washington.

According to Dr Castro, the US alleges that the continuation of their activities would endanger the transfer of the prisoners to a British ship docked in the harbour.

Dr Castro said he had received this message in a telephone call from President Belisario Betancur of Colombia in which the details of possible arrangements had been discussed. Señor Betancur and Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, have been acting as mediators between Cuba and the United States to secure repatriation of the captured Cubans.

The Cuban dead and wounded are to be brought to Havana by a Swissair plane placed at the disposal of the International Red Cross. A Cuban Red Cross official said that the flight from Grenada may be made via Barbados and may take place today.

The ship which will transport the remaining prisoners has not been identified. Dr Castro made clear his anger at the refusal of the US to allow the use of the Cuban ship, *Vietnam Heroico*, which is in the vicinity of Grenada.

"The alleged reason is that they say it is carrying special armaments," he said in this communique. "That is pure Yankee fantasy. The truth is that the United States has seized every pretext to delay the return of the Cuban personnel, including the dead and wounded."

The Cuban Government has responded to United States estimates of the number of Cubans on Grenada with a list which specifies the number of its citizens on the island, a total of 784, and their precise functions.

The Pentagon, the communications stated, had given a total of 638 Cubans captured, including the wounded.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has been anxious to take reporters to meet the relatives of the Cubans on Grenada whose individual fates are unknown. Señora Nellie Sánchez is the wife of Señor José Joaquín Giron Caballón, an ophthalmologist, aged 45, who left Calixto García Hospital in Havana 18 months ago to assist with the organization of a new ward in the hospital at St George's, Grenada. "The only weapons my husband had," she said, "were his scalp, scissors and other medical instruments."

Señor Jesús Vizcaino, aged 44, returned a month ago from Grenada, where he had been working with the Grenadian Government's Department of Statistics. "They requested our help in the development of their projects, especially in the sphere of industrial production," he said at his office in Havana. "We helped on the basis of their needs, according to their requirements."

During his six months on the island, he has noticed no opposition to the regime of Mr Maurice Bishop.

Had the Grenadians sought to copy the example of Cuba's revolutionary socialism? "No two countries are exactly alike. We respond to the right of every country to find its own solution."

## US envoy dampens hopes of Nicaragua exiles

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

The US action in Grenada has been welcomed in Honduras, according to Mr John Negroponte, the American Ambassador.

Nicaraguan exile groups here, which are fighting the Sandinist regime, have also drawn encouragement from Mr Reagan's action in the Caribbean. Señor Manuel Calero, the leader of the FDN, the largest group of the so-called "contras," said it has set a precedent for US anti-communist intervention in the region.

Mr Negroponte denied this, saying the Grenada invasion had been undertaken on its own merits and was not designed to put further pressure on Nicaragua to change the course of its revolution. He said the key to ending tensions in Central America was for Nicaragua to find a way of living with its neighbours.

Marinates of some of their power.

But Shaikh Pierre, the 78-year-old leader of the Phalange party and President Amin Gemayel's father, was adamant. "Getting the foreigners out of our land is the first job we have," he said. "The Lebanese Government controls only 25 per cent of Lebanon, if that, and what comes first is the election of the foreigners, the Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Libyans and Israelis."

After this had been achieved, there might be "some very slight changes" - a "small improvement" - to the 1943 Covenant which decreed Lebanon should have a Christian Maronite president. Shaikh Pierre's bony had swept through the air dismissively.

He founded the Phalange party in 1936 after discovering

US troops were in Honduras for joint exercises, but "they are also, psychologically, in any event, helping to restore an equilibrium that has been disturbed by the military build-up in Nicaragua."

"What really concerns the Hondurans is the lack of military balance," Mr Negroponte said. There has been no official reaction here to events in Grenada, but comment in the press has been favourable and Señor Edgardo Paz Barmic, the Foreign Minister, has emphasized that the invasion was at the request of eastern Caribbean countries.

Mr Negroponte said it was too soon to say how events in Grenada would affect central America or the Contadora peace process. But he did not feel it would undermine confidence in Washington's desire to resolve regional problems by negotiation.

## China and India fail to agree on border

Delhi, (Reuters) - India and China have failed to agree on a common approach to settling border differences, but the week-long talks were fruitful and encouraging, an official Indian source said yesterday.

One step forward was that China agreed to a sector-by-sector review of the border with a view to a comprehensive settlement. Each side agreed to reconsider previously unaccepted proposals by the other. They also agreed on the relevance of historical evidence, customs and tradition, and the inadmissibility of using force to acquire territory.

The frontier question is a strain on Sino-Indian relations which led to war in 1962. India accuses China of occupying about 14,000 square miles of its territory.

## Search still on for oil ship

Peking (Reuters) - Search operations continued yesterday as ships and aircraft from China, the United States and Vietnam combed the Gulf of Tonkin for survivors of an American drilling ship reported sunk with 79 US and Chinese oilmen on board.

The New China News Agency said that four Chinese ships were rushing to the area where a lifeboat had been spotted with flashing lights by an American reconnaissance plane.

## War games

Madrid, (AFP) - US and Spanish armed forces begin their biggest ever joint manoeuvres today, involving about 23,000 soldiers, 32 warships and 10 aircraft, the Spanish Defence Ministry announced.

## Death leap

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (Reuters) - A young male passenger on a commuter airliner forced to make an emergency exit and jumped 3,500 ft to his death.

## Hijacker jailed

Jakarta (AFP) - A Muslim militant student convicted of plotting the hijack of a Garuda DC9 to Bangkok in March 1981, has been sentenced to 18 years in jail on charges of subversion.

## Cocaine arrests

Miami (AFP) - A Bahamian immigration officer and a Nassau businessman have been arrested for allegedly conspiring to import \$10m worth of South American cocaine into the United States.

## Hero's welcome

Perth (AFP) - More than 400,000 people turned out in Perth to give Australia's history-making America's Cup sailing team, headed by businessman Alan Bond, a hero's welcome.

## Jackboot fans

Munich - Light-wing extremists hit West German football again at the weekend as 30 neo-Nazis, posing as football fans, were arrested for assault after a match between Bayern-Munich and FC Nurnberg.

## Swan avenged

Moscow (Reuters) - A man who wrung a swan's neck in front of visitors to a Soviet zoo has been sentenced to six years in a half-regime corrective labour camp for malicious hooliganism.

## Bubbling over

Reims (AFP) - The 1983 grape harvest in Champagne of 869 million litres is being called the "cru of the century". Officials predict a production of 300 million bottles, surpassing the record 290 million bottles in 1982.

## Party leader

Vienne (Reuters) - Chancellor Fred Stowatz of Austria has been elected chairman of the Socialist Party, succeeding his predecessor, Bruno Kreisky, who stepped down after heading the party for 17 years.

## Search for someone to accept surrender

From Christopher Thomas, Carriacou

An old yellow pick-up laden with 150 rifles and pistols rattled down the narrow street of Carriacou Island's only town and stopped outside the police station on Friday afternoon.

The Grenadian People's revolutionary Army had come to surrender.

A policeman stood in the hot sun arguing with two soldiers who had been dispatched with the arms. He had, he insisted, no authority to disarm the Army. The soldiers persisted. They dumped the weapons on the concrete floor of the police station and drove back to the small army camp a few miles away.

All the island's half-dozen policemen were summoned and they decided on a hiding place. The weapons were then taken away to await developments and the sleepy town of Hillsborough settled down again after the unaccustomed excitement.

Carriacou is owned by Grenada, which lies 30 miles to the south, and for the past few weeks the 8,000 islanders have not known who is in charge.

There have been Cuban soldiers in Carriacou, but the islanders say they have rarely seen them. Nobody seems to know if any are still there or if there are heavy arms in the island.

But everybody seems convinced that the Grenadian soldiers, who supposedly number between 20 and 30, would put up no resistance if the Americans or Caribbean Joint forces were to land.

The islanders are jubilant about the US intervention in Grenada. Most expressed support for Mr Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister, and they are hoping that the Americans will soon come ashore.

The US Navy has graphically demonstrated its unhappiness with foreign correspondents who tried to go to Carriacou by fishing boats from the nearby island of Union.

One boatload that tried was harassed by Navy helicopters that dropped smoke bombs in its path. The boat turned back. On Friday *The Times* and some French journalists were buzzed three times by two F14 jets but we were not stopped.

Getting to the main island of Grenada has become a matter of conflict, with touches of humour, between journalists and the US Navy.

A boat occupied by *The Times*, journalists from French national radio, a Swiss reporter and a *Newswatch* photographer got to within five miles of St George's, the capital, after a three-hour journey from Union island before being intercepted.



Battle fatigue: Dr Alison Brooks, aged 25, of London, arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday after being evacuated from Grenada with US medical students. "I haven't slept for nearly eight days. The helicopter evacuation happened suddenly and we had to run for it. All I've got are the clothes I'm wearing. Anti-aircraft missiles were being used when we saw helicopters being shot down," she said.

## RETURN OF THE PEOPLE'S SHAH

For the past 2,500 years Iran's Monarchy was the symbol of national unity.

Since the fall of the Imperial Government, the Iranian people have suffered immeasurably and the marvellous achievements of the Pahlavi Dynasty have been destroyed, but hope for the return of the rightful Shah has never died.

October 31st is the 24th birthday and the 4th anniversary of the succession of His Majesty REZA SHAH II, The people's Shah of Iran.

Iranians are greeting the occasion and pray for the speedy restoration of His Majesty to end the present hellish regime.

GOD SAVE IRAN  
LONG LIVE REZA SHAH II  
SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN  
Issued by Iranian Monarchists in Britain



REZA SHAH II

## A frail man who takes a tough line

From Robert Fisk, Geneva

Shaikh Pierre Gemayel relaxed in the first-class section of his Middle East Airlines jet from Beirut to Geneva yesterday with a soda water beside him, two bright red carnations in his frail hand and, in his mind, the apparently intractable idea that he was travelling to Switzerland to discuss withdrawal of foreign armies from Lebanon.

Most of the delegates to today's reconciliation conference here - including the Syrian triumvirate of Mr Walid Jumblatt, Mr Sulaiman Franjeh, and Mr Rashid Karami - believe they are going to talk about a new Lebanon and the change in the constitutional structure of the country which will deprive the Christian

Maronites of some of their power.

But Shaikh Pierre, the 78-year-old leader of the Phalange party and President Amin Gemayel's father, was adamant. "Getting the foreigners out of our land is the first job we have," he said. "The Lebanese Government controls only 25 per cent of Lebanon, if that, and what comes first is the election of the foreigners, the Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Libyans and Israelis."

After this had been achieved, there might be "some very slight changes" - a "small improvement" - to the 1943 Covenant which decreed Lebanon should have a Christian Maronite president. Shaikh Pierre's bony had swept through the air dismissively.

He founded the Phalange party in 1936 after discovering

in the Nazi Olympics the "discipline and order" - his words - which he felt Lebanon needed. The problem for the other eight politicians gathering for today's talks, including President Gemayel, is that Shaikh Pierre represents the hard line of the Phalange and apparently believes that the Druze, the Shia Muslims and the pro-Syrian Maronites will be satisfied with a few minor reforms.

The Syrians, who will be observers at the conference, are in no mood to accept this. Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Foreign Minister, was last night reported to be on his way to Geneva.

None of this troubled Shaikh Pierre. The Soviet Union was behind Lebanon's problems, he said, using the Syrians as proxies, he said. Only the United States

prevented Lebanon from falling under Soviet domination. The 1943 Covenant made Lebanon a unique land and it was therefore supported by all the people - or so Shaikh Pierre thought.

President Gemayel's telephone conversation on Friday with President Assad of Syria had not represented a "serious discussion", merely a formal contact after the civil war in the Chouf. An event Shaikh Pierre enthusiastically referred to as the mountain events.

The Syrians take a somewhat different view, as Shaikh Pierre and his advisers will discover when they arrive at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva this morning for the talks which are meant to put Lebanon together again.



## Solidarity and Jaruzelski settle in for war of attrition as amnesty ends

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

With only hours to go before the expiry of an amnesty for opponents of General Jaruzelski, the Polish Government and the hard-core of the Solidarity underground settled in for a war of attrition.

Solidarity called at the weekend for protests throughout November, including demonstrations and poster campaigns. The government, determined to show that it was prepared to make conciliatory gestures until the last minutes of the amnesty, declared that the seven Solidarity leaders and four members of the KOR dissident group awaiting trial would be allowed to emigrate if they wished.

Such offers have been made privately before - the 11 activists have been interned and imprisoned since the declaration of martial law almost two years ago - but they have refused the offer. Their friends and families expect them to do again.

The amnesty, introduced in July, when martial law was lifted, expired at midnight tonight. So far about 560 activists have declared themselves to the police and been allowed to go free, but most were on the fringes of the underground movement.

Having made its emigration gesture, Solidarity sympathizers expect the authorities to make

raids in all big centres of opposition in an attempt to arrest underground leaders who have refused to surrender. Those still free include Mr Zbigniew Bujak, head of the Warsaw underground, and Mr Bogdan Lis, of Gdansk.

It is clear from a clandestine journal circulating in Warsaw that the fugitive Solidarity leadership has no intention of surrendering. "It is our moral and social obligation to fight for the release of political prisoners," said the bulletin, signed by the five members of the underground steering committee.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said in a statement to the official PAP news agency that the emigration offer was open until the beginning of the trial of the KOR dissidents and that it was up to the West to persuade them to leave.

It was unlikely that "the Western overlords of the KOR and the hard-core extremists of Solidarity" would bother to persuade the 11 to leave Poland - they call for freeing people out of humanitarian concern, but they are not guided by this concern at all.

The Government is in a dilemma. After the expiry of the amnesty it must demonstrate that it is firmly in control and that the underground, "the

counter-revolutionaries", can be picked up at will.

But that means beginning yet another round of trials and the production en masse of martyrs for Solidarity. It is thus exploring the option of induced emigration, which is likely to be rejected by most leading Solidarity underground campaigners precisely because it is being made out of embarrassment.

Those who may well consider emigration are the activists who are ill or who have sick relatives, as well as those who fear a long haul of persecution at work when they leave the underground.

Correspondents were approached at the weekend by a number of underground activists involved in printing leaflets in the provinces. Fearful that something unpleasant would happen to them if they surrendered to the police even before the expiry of the amnesty, they were attempting to contact Western embassies to secure the promise of asylum.

The police are anxious to net at least one underground leader before November 10, the third anniversary of the registration of Solidarity as a legal union.

A sign of this came earlier this month when officials - according to dissident sources - beat up the wife of Mr Zbigniew Janas, a fugitive organizer to try to persuade him to surrender.



## Deng defiant on future of Hongkong

Peking (AFP and AP) - Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, met Spain's Foreign Minister, Señor Fernando Morán López (above) yesterday and, according to Señor Morán, said that the question of who

will administer Hongkong after China reclaims sovereignty over the colony is not negotiable.

Señor Morán told reporters that Mr Deng had reiterated Peking's stand that the talks with Britain on Hongkong's

future dealt only with assuring the colony's prosperity and stability until 1997.

China intends to regain sovereignty over Hongkong by 1997, when Britain's lease on most of the territory expires.

## ANC denies attempt on Botha

## Pretoria accused of faking bomb plot

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The banned African National Congress (ANC), in a statement from its headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, has suggested that the South African claim of an assassination attempt on the Prime Minister last week was stage-managed to whip up sympathy before Wednesday's Whites-only referendum on a new constitution.

The statement was seen as an effective denial by the ANC of involvement in the alleged assassination attempt. South Africa claimed that a young black carrying a bomb, was arrested in Pietermaritzburg last Thursday night on his way to blow up Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, and other members of his Cabinet, who were in the town for a referendum rally. Pretoria says the man was a trained ANC agent.

The ANC has, in fact, never advocated the assassination of senior government figures - although they would be relatively easy targets in a country where, in spite of its deserved reputation in some respects as a police state, security precautions are often surprisingly lax.

Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, the third and most influential Prime Minister of the apartheid era, was the target of two assassination attempts, of which the second, in 1966, was successful. But his assailants on

## Zulu students die in campus clash

Johannesburg (Reuter) - Three students have been killed and 10 seriously injured after violent clashes with supporters of a Zulu political group at the black University of Zululand, near Empangeni in northern Natal.

The violence flared as the Inkatha organization held a campus rally, addressed by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, its leader, who has been accused of being a stooge of South Africa in his role as Chief Minister of KwaZulu "homeland".

both occasions were demented whites. The fatal blow was struck by a parliamentary messenger.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the ANC has urged liberal whites to vote "No" in the referendum on the constitution, which would give limited political rights to mixed-blood Coloureds and Indians. In doing so, the ANC said, the whites would join hands with blacks in the struggle to dismantle minority rule and create a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

Minister collapses: Mr Pik Botha, the Foreign Minister, was yesterday examined for one-and-a-half hours after collapsing at a political rally on Saturday night (Reuter reports).

## Migabe threat to pre-white schools

Harare (AP Reuter) - Private schools in Zimbabwe that have more white than black students by next year will be shut down, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said on Saturday.

Some church and private schools were raising fees to keep their doors closed to the average black child, he said at a rally in the eastern Wedar district. The Government is preparing legislation to ban private schools that have a minority of blacks.

The Government paid all teachers' salaries and gave per capita grants to private schools, so there was no reason for schools to charge as much as \$530 a term, he said.

Even schools run by churches were guilty. "I could not understand why they used 'discriminatory practices' when they were expected to create a non-racial society."

In the capital, hundreds of squatters, beggars and suspected prostitutes were being held in detention yesterday after troops and police mounted a raid which a spokesman described as

a three-pronged cleaning-up exercise.

Shacks at one squatter camp were burnt down on Saturday.

In another development, the Foreign Office in London has agreed to repatriate a British immigrant family that fled from South Africa to Zimbabwe last week.

Mr Sean Bieley, a Manchester carpenter, said he went to South Africa 18 months ago after being offered "sunny skies, work and a beautiful home". None of the promises were fulfilled.

He said his family was left stranded, almost penniless, after living for five months in single rooms. There was "one rip-off after another". Mr Bieley said he would sue the South African Embassy in London.

In a separate incident, the former Prime Minister, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, denied he was plotting with Israel and South Africa against the Zimbabwe Government, which he accused of political harassment and oppression.

## Anxiety in Spain over art losses

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A senior Spanish museum curator has admitted that measures to prevent the smuggling of national treasures out of the country are inadequate.

Schona Mammela Rana, deputy director of the Prado museum and a member of the national art exports supervisory committee, told a Madrid art club: "More than half the art exports do not come through us. While we are reviewing art objects of trivial value, paintings like Goya's 'Majestad de Santa Cruz' leave the country by other ways."

The Spanish Ministry of Culture last summer announced the illegal export of the privately owned early 16th-century portrait of the Spanish aristocrat and started legal proceedings which had so far been fruitless.

Police suspected at the time that a yacht-owning businessman had taken out the painting and had gone to Argentina. They alleged that the painting had found its way to London or Continental art markets.

The chief of the squad also told the art club that the 50-year-old law to protect art treasures was inadequate. Really valuable pieces never even entered the legal art sales circuits. Art works often passed direct from an art dealer to a clandestine dealer or to an art smuggler abroad.

"For every honest art dealer there are five to ten working here in the shadows," the police chief declared.

## Evren hits at critics of Turkish poll

Ankara (Reuter) President Kenan Evren has said that next week's general election, criticized at home and abroad as not being free, would bring back democracy and disappoint those who tried to impose their own ideology on Turkey.

He was speaking at a big military parade here on Saturday to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. "Despite pitiless and ill-intentioned accusations, we will establish democracy and a parliamentary system through the general election on November 6, the President said.

Opposition groups at home and abroad have said the elections will not return democracy, as only three parties have been allowed to contest the poll. The democratic process was suspended by a military coup three years ago and next week's voting will take place under continued martial law.

PARIS: Fifteen opponents of the military regime in Turkey have been charged with premeditated assault in Friday's brief takeover of the British Consulate in Paris (AP reports).

The 15, including 11 Turks and four French people, were released on Saturday under judicial supervision.

BAAGDA: Guards beat off two gunmen who attacked the Turkish Embassy in this Lebanese town, and police captured one who they said had confessed to being a member of an underground Armenian group (Reuter reports).

## Russia and China agree politely to meet again

Peking (Reuter) - Special envoys from China and the Soviet Union will meet in Moscow next March for a fourth round of talks on normalizing relations, frosty since an ideological split two decades ago.

A communiqué, agreed yesterday by the two sides and issued here by the New China News Agency, said the third round of discussions, held this month, proceeded in a calm and candid atmosphere.

It said the two sides found the consultations useful. The statement was published a few hours after the Soviet negotiating team, led by Mr Leonid

Ilyichov, the Deputy Foreign Minister, flew home after three weeks in Peking.

Mr Ilyichov refused to comment at Peking Airport, but Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, said the meetings had been helpful in the increasing mutual understanding.

Diplomats said the statement made no mention of the obstacles which China has maintained must be removed before normalization is possible.

China is demanding that Moscow remove its large troop and missile concentrations along the Chinese border.

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## SPECTRUM

Peter Hennessy talks to the Foreign Office officials with Grenada on their minds

## Bright young things of the FO



In Mrs Thatcher's Whitehall some things are at a discount, diplomats and think tanks among them. It is mildly surprising, therefore, to find in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a flourishing team of bright young officials licensed to think the unthinkable. What is more, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, seems to relish their output. The Prime Minister uses their material for her speeches and has just appointed one of their former heads, Sir Percy Cradock, to be her personal adviser on foreign affairs in Number 10.

The Cabinet's Think Tank, the Central Policy Review Staff, has lain dead since July. But the FO's planning staff continues to pour out stuff on movements in the price of oil, instability in Central America, East-West economic relations, Poland, Hongkong, Gibraltar, the Falklands, Belize and, since last Wednesday when it became their number one priority, Grenada. Once a month, Sir Anthony Acland, head of the Diplomatic Service, calls a meeting of his deputy secretaries to plunder their product. There is a constant two-way flow of information with the Joint Intelligence Committee, the engine room of Whitehall's secret world, which the planning staff carefully avoid mentioning (the JIC and its works littered the pages of the Franks report on the Falklands in January, but the mist has descended once more; nobody will admit that it exists).

If Mrs Thatcher, the slaughterer of think tanks, did cross Downing Street to pay the planning staff a visit in their ground floor billet, next to Sir Antony Acland's office, with its grand view of St James's Park, she would probably like what she saw. Its small staff do not fit the fashionable but unfair stereotype of the FO as a citadel of polished smoothies forever talking down the national interest and endlessly seeking one group of foreigners or another to sell out to.

For a start they are run by a woman as sharp as any in public life. Miss Pauline Neville-Jones, who has a knack of being in the right capital at the right time - Salisbury, Rhodesia when UDI was declared, Washington as Watergate engulfed the Nixon presidency - has her own view why the planning staff have survived.

"Why have we been spared? For a number of reasons. We don't attempt to be inter-departmental. We are not involved in the inter-departmental power game. We have been established for a very long time [since 1964]. People do not let us see the papers. They can't stop us seeing the telegrams. But they could stop us seeing the policy submissions. Nothing could kill a



The thinkers of the unthinkable (from left): Colin Jennings, Mary Blake-Panley, Sherard Cowper-Coles, David Lyscom, Pauline Neville-Jones, Andrew Colquhoun, David Manning (absent, Desmond Cecil) Photograph: Brian Harris

planning staff sooner than to be cut off from information. The FO does understand the value of licensed devil's advocates."

They use a number of ploys to make an impact on potential customers. They try to invent snappy titles for their papers. Miss Neville-Jones did not want to give away scoops by mentioning recent examples. But *The End of the Rainbow*, an early 1970s study of what happens when North Sea oil runs out, is a cherished gem from the past. Beneath the headline the idea is to keep it short and relevant. It helps if you have prepared the market in advance by engaging the customers in debate. Think the unthinkable by all means but do not stray into the realms of the politically daft like suggesting half-a-dozen ways of ceding the sovereignty of the Falklands to Argentina. This week their energies will be concentrated on possible practical solutions for Grenada in the post military intervention phase.

The planning staff have proved adaptable. They usually have an outsider on their strength - though they are all insiders at the moment. Mr Colin Jennings is on secondment from the

Ministry of Defence. Mr David Lyscom is an economist and statistician. Mr Andrew Colquhoun is an Arabist with a PhD in plant physiology from Glasgow University. The ages of the team range from 28 (Mr Sherard Cowper-Coles) to 43 (Miss Neville-Jones). They respond to external circumstances and the wishes of their consumers, while all the time trying to generate initiatives themselves which may be sparked off by an odd paragraph in a routine telegram or even by something they have read in the newspapers.

The invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the invasion of the Falklands in 1982 saw them transformed temporarily into a crisis clearing centre - by Sir Michael Palliser, then head of the Diplomatic Service who had run the planning staff in its first two years, when the Russians struck and by Sir Antony Acland when Port Stanley fell to the Argentines. Sir Michael always had a soft spot for them. "Access to the Permanent Secretary," said one insider, "means the planning staff can play games with the big divisions. Palliser was prepared occasionally to

allow games to be played with it, to let an argument run."

In fact, part of the planning staff's job is to inject heterodoxy into the FO, raiding the minds of MPs, academics, journalists and the collective wisdom of bodies like Chatham House and the International Institute of Strategic Studies. Sir Julian Bullard, FO's political director, and an important patron of the planning staff, is particularly keen on this aspect which is described by Miss Neville-Jones as "spreading the seed corn around the office".

A lot of corn has been pushed the way of ministers in the past two years. The Falklands resignations brought in one new bunch, the general election a second (Sir Geoffrey Howe, says Miss Neville-Jones, is "a great consumer of paper and has a very retentive memory - you put something up and it comes back with little marks all over it"). As a result of ministers marching up their learning curves, about 75 per cent of her workload is generated by others. She would like it nearer 50-50. She has to beware, too, lest the short-term crowds out the long-term.

The planning staff are meant to fulfil the impossible task of spotting crises or developments over the horizon. Colleagues can be rather unkind when they fail. Of all the options foreseen for post-Solidarity Poland, military rule was thought to be the least likely as it had not happened before in Eastern Europe. Since the oil shocks of the 1970s, forecasting, which flourished in the "saland days" of the Cradock era (1969-71), has been replaced by "scenarios" - for example what happens if the price of oil plummets.

The diplomatic world is full of planners in foreign offices each drawing up scenarios, contingency plans for crises and surveys of trouble spots. In the west, a kind of trade union has grown up among them. But the FO's team is much smaller than its American and French counterparts, consisting of Miss Neville-Jones, six first secretaries, one third secretary, a registry clerk and three conventional secretaries.

One in-house sympathizer says times are hard for the planning staff "because we do not have policy any more, we have rhetoric". Miss Neville-Jones showed her steel at this point: "Simply not true. Styles change, my goodness they change. The way policy is presented these days is different from five or six years ago. It's very important to underline the British interest and defend it. That there is policy I have no doubt". There is more than one Iron Lady in Whitehall.

Jan Morris and Simon Winchester explore the buildings that are solid and sometimes extravagant chunks of England in India and linger over verandah sundowners

## Bungalow builder

Chez Tapworth  
(In a ridge - beside a river - in a flowered suburb on the desert's edge - there stands the home of the empire-builder One building above all others stood for the intimate side of imperial life: the bungalow, which was to remain for ever a symbol of the British in India. Before we explore Anglo-Indian domestic architecture any further, let us in an idle way, during a Saturday spin with Frank, briefly inspect this archetypal construction.

It stands, almost certainly surrounded by a walled compound, and wherever its size, it is likely to be built well away from its neighbours. Behind it, there beyond the banyan tree, its kitchen quarters are cluttered beneath a thin haze of wood-smoke; a gravel drive lined with flowerpots runs down to its front gate, which is guarded by fairly pompous gateposts and marked with its owner's name, G D L. TAPWORTH. It is a low oblong building, with a porte-cochère of some sort in front of it, probably entwined in creepers, and verandahs under deep eaves all around. Wicker chairs and tables, hammocks, sporting trophies and perhaps a ping-pong table are distributed around these steps, and beyond them in the shadows we may just catch a glimpse of chintz and flower-vases, or a glint of cutlery through an open french window. It is not a grand house, not architecturally anything special, but even from our distance on the road outside its character is unmistakable. It represents a culture of distinctive strength, however limited, a people of great

resolution, however dull. As long as the British in India are remembered at all, they will be remembered against the background of the bungalow, taking sundowners on its verandahs, playing badminton on its lawns, or -

Gosh darling, there's Muriel Tapworth now, just coming out of the drawing room. Step on it, for Heaven's sake, before she drags us in for tea...

## 'Bungle-obs'

The Anglo-Indian bungalow, was evolved to make the best of things. It was called a bungalow probably because it was adopted from the Bengali patterns, and it was variously spelt bungalla, banga, bungalow, banggolo, bangale and bangalo - "For Sale," said the *Bombay Courier* invitingly in 1793, "a Bungalow stands between the two Tombstones on the island of Coolesha". In the early years a bungalow generally meant a humble *cacha* house, built of mud-brick or rushes, but later governors and even viceroys were not ashamed to sleep in one, and it was only when the term came to England, at the end of the nineteenth century, that it acquired a faintly pejorative social meaning, as in "bungalow-land" or "bungalow development".

The first Anglo-Indian bungalows were pretty awful. In 1801 some body defined them pitifully as "stationary tents run around", and the explorer Richard Burton, in the 1840s, described the bungalow style simply as "a modification of the cow-house". Here and there even now you may still see an example still in use. It is likely to be an oblong structure on one floor, its roof rising unsteadily to a pyramidal centre, its stepped verandah pillars with square mud columns and shaded by low eaves. Its roof was doubtless thatched once, but is now of irregular rough tiles. It is a very primitive house, hardly more than a big hut, and really does look, as a matter of fact, a bit like a cow-house. With lesser regional differences (flat roofs in upper India, for instance, stilted floors in Assam) it was built in its thousands all over British India, generally containing a single square living-room and a bedroom opening off it, with the kitchen quarters in separate shacks.

Most such bungalows were built as bachelor quarters (and they sometimes had a *bikhana* tucked away behind, for the accommodation of native mistresses). When, especially after the advent of the steamship, more British women and children came to India, the form of a bungalow became rather more complex, and sundry changes were rung upon the theme. It

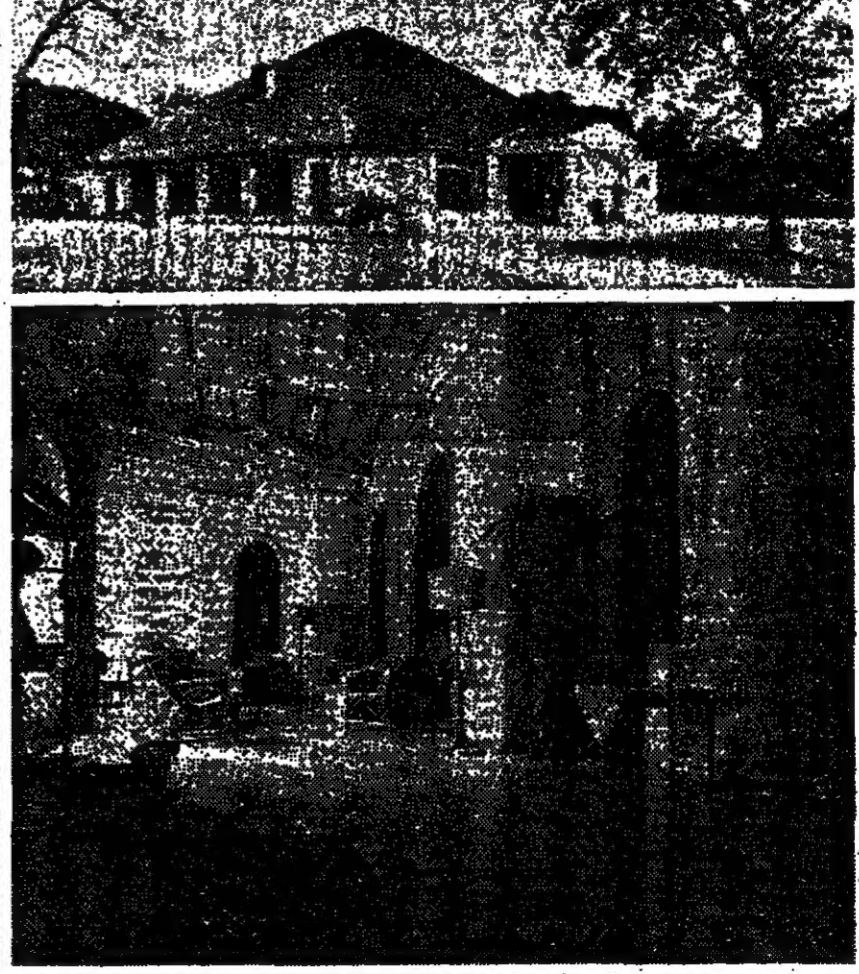


The cool life: (left) the verandah of a Paora bungalow and (right) a marble floor, top, and a verandah of a house in Secunderabad

remained nevertheless a simple structure - to represent a great empire, and often struck visitors as quaint or even faintly comic, when they contrasted its modest arrangements with the flurry of servants that surrounded it, the impressive space of its compound (fifteen times the area of the house was thought a proper proportion for officers' bungalows in 1925), and the almost limitless authority that it frequently housed. Until the end of the Empire it often had no running water, and in elegant city suburbs its toilet arrangements were generally limited to the noxious thunder-box.

It did evolve, though, into more pretentious versions of itself. Sometimes it just grew bigger. The bungalow of the Commissioner at Chittagong in the 1870s, for instance, was a hilltop structure that looked like four or five of the old-style structures put together - still thatched, even then, but surrounded by elaborate successions of verandahs and surmounted by a long balustrade ("I have never seen so lovely a place to look at," wrote its inhabitant in 1878, John Beame, "nor one so loathsome to live in..."). Such a house now was likely to have three or four bedrooms, with dressing-rooms attached, a study, a play-room for the children, and a dining-room opening through an arch into the drawing-room, while a covered passage connected the serving pantry with the kitchen quarters at the bottom of the compound.

The bungalow became more stylish, too. The portico was the first sign of higher things; it could serve as a *porte-cochère*, or it could be a mere extension of the verandah, and it did wonders for the dignity of the establishment. We see it in many kinds - flat-roofed, ostentatiously pedimented, curiously gabled, unadorned all over to make



a sort of gazebo. Innumerable pots of chrysanthemums or geraniums often gave it charm. Castellation along the top sometimes gave it grandeur. Behind the simple shape of the building could be further disguised with parapets, ornamental urns, turrets, wooden spikes, barge-boards. Though bungalows generally remained single-storeyed, clerestories made their rooms still higher and cooler, attics were sometimes added, and there could be terraces above their verandahs - "too high for one storey, too low for two", the journalist George Stevens thought they looked when he arrived in India in 1899. Elaborate fenestrations appeared. Regency sun-lights blossomed above heavy wooden doors, mullion windows framed stained glass representations of *Ivanhoe* or *The Idylls of the King*. A wonderful variety of accessories came to clothe the Anglo-Indian bungalow down the generations, and many architectural traditions were drawn upon - only the international style of the twentieth century was altogether ignored, the bungalow being, if essentially rather formal, distinctly not formalist.

By the time it came to the building of New Delhi, in the 1920s, the bungalow had reached the climax of its development. Lutyens, who was responsible for the residential layout of the new capital, was not an admirer of British domestic arrangements in India, which he thought "extraordinarily unintelligent", he liked to scoff about "bungle-obs", and his own designs for the capital's bungalows, which he wanted faced in marble, were rejected as too expensive. Nevertheless as you drive around the streets of New Delhi today the bungalows of the more senior officials, mostly de-

signed in the end by government architects, look most agreeable houses. Their gardens are lush and mature by now. Creepers drift into their wide verandahs. They are of all sizes, being graded according to the importance of their occupants, and in several styles too, but they nearly all give an impression of spacious and airy charm. It is a long way from the stationary tent to these handsome structures, some of them palatial in manner if not in scale, but still the line of descent is direct: the British, having chosen the form of their housing in India in the seventeenth century, never devised a better one during the 300 subsequent years of their residence.

On the verandah  
A diversion just for a moment, to consider the verandah. It was in some ways the most important part of the bungalow, fulfilling all sorts of socio-economic functions. Just occasionally it was rather a nuisance - Richard Burton, experiencing one during wet weather in the hills, said that it was "only calculated to render the interior of the domiciles as dim and gloomy as can be conceived". But in two particular ways it was essential to the purpose and significance of the house.

First, it was the one place the imperialists had just for messing around on. Everything was easy-going about the verandah. Its furniture was meant for lounging. Its floor was covered, if covered at all, with the memsahib's least valuable carpets, or with Chinese matting. Its pictures and trophies were beloved rather than precious. Funny old chairs lay round about, bamboo couches, rocking-chairs sometimes, or sofas with wide arms for the accommodation of glasses. Potted plants were everywhere, and here the little dogs of the household

were indulged, lying around on sofas or begging titbits at breakfast time.  
And secondly, the verandah was the place where the British woman, in particular, could feel some tentative personal contact with the alien world of India outside. Here hawkers and tradesmen might bring their wares, without actually entering the house proper. The watchman sometimes slept upon the verandah; the tailor was often to be seen cross-legged there in the afternoon. When Mr Tapworth felt obliged to bring one of his native colleagues home for a drink, it was upon the verandah that Muriel generally arranged things; and after dinner, as often as not, when the moon was high, the distant jackals were howling and there was a distant beat of drums from the bazaar, it was upon the verandah that the memsahib, already sketching out her entry for the day's journal, felt herself to be most truly amidst the romance of Old India.

In short, the verandah was a sort of bridge: it linked the rigid and conventional life of the imperialist with the lost liberties of home; it linked the rose-petals of the drawing-room with the dust and dung fires of the land outside; and perhaps too, it tenuously joined the dreams of the Anglo-Indians with the reality of their existences - for on the verandah sometimes, with a drink in one's hand, or an embroidery frame friends to laugh with and faithful servants just out of sight, empire-building really could seem, just for the moment, all that was cracked up to be.

Tomorrow  
General Kenan Evren, President of Turkey and military head of state, talks to Peter Nichols

moreover...  
Miles Kingston

## A taste of their own grenadine

The world political scene changes so fast these days that if you go away for a weekend you are apt to come back totally out of touch and still talking about Cecil Parkinson. In the last week alone we have seen the Booker Prize given to the courage to give the mummy a span whose name nobody could pronounce, perhaps emboldened by the Nobel Peace Prize going to the equally unpronounceable Lech Walesa. We have seen Tariq Ali ejected from the premises of the Labour Party by their new boss, Neil Kinnock, which in a fair and just world would be the first step in Tariq Ali's ascent towards a Nobel Peace Prize. And we have seen Grenada come from nowhere to be the world's most famous island.

A week ago most people thought Grenada was a town in Spain or a 19th-century literary town better than this. I am one of the few journalists in Fleet Street who have visited the place, and if I have not spoken up before now it is because I have not been asked. Also, the truth be known, my visit took place 20 years ago at a time when last week's troubles were hard to forecast, and if I didn't seem worthwhile staying on to cover them, in fact, of the 24 hours I spent there, all I can remember is that milk was oddly labelled back to front - KILN - and that I bought a nutmeg.

"Because you are English, I think you have it for a dollar," said a kindly Grenadian, or perhaps Guianese.

"Normally I would charge Americans four or five dollars for one."

"And how much would you charge a native?" I inquired.

"Ten cents," was the rather honest answer from the friendly Grenadian, or perhaps Guianese.

Not the sort of in-depth sound on which to write a piece about Grenada: Why It Happened. Luckily, I do not feel the need to write a piece about Grenada and its inhabitants, who believe in France are called Guianese. We at *Moreover* feel it is more important to look ahead to the next election. Our approach is *After Grenada*.

Brace yourselves for a shock. My information is that the Grenadian due to be invaded is the United States.

The inhabitants of central and southern America, sick and tired of being invaded by the gringos - the United States has landed troops there at least 60 times in the last century - have finally decided to retaliate.

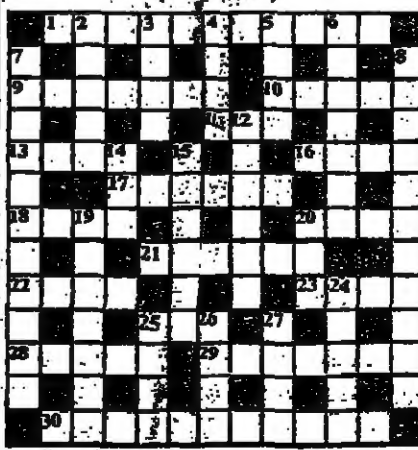
Their mission will be easy to justify. They will simply claim that the have come to depose an unpopular right-wing regime imposed autocratically on a country where it is impossible to be president unless you are white male and a millionaire.

Cynics will no doubt point out that such an operation will need vast numbers of people, who could easily be spotted and dealt with as they arrived. My point is that these people have already arrived. Over the past few years several million people of Hispanic origin have infiltrated their way into American society, so many that Spanish is the official language in many parts of the States. I am surprised that nobody else has guessed who they really are.

They are fighters, ready for the signal to take up arms and overthrow their hosts, none of whom has any experience of being invaded and would not know what to do. But I am sure the most reasonable native Americans will be reassured by the promise of the invaders that they will go away again as soon as a stable society is set up, and as soon as the United States promises to give up its military operations in Latin America.

Meanwhile, it explains why Russia is not unduly perturbed by the Grenadian or perhaps Guianese adventure. It explains why Mr Castro took things so calmly. It explains why the Cuban exile economy is so strong in Miami, which is of course to be the new capital of the United States. It explains a great many things, which I do not have space to go into here. My advice to Americans is simply to sit tight, say calm, buy your nutmegs well in advance, and learn Spanish. And remember that you read it here first.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 189)



- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS                      | DOWN                                 |
| 1 Every device (3,2,5)      | 2 Rock (5)                           |
| 3 Vocal co-ordination (3,4) | 3 Ornamental catch (4)               |
| 4 Rounded hill (5)          | 4 Plant (4)                          |
| 5 Typewriting level (3,5)   | 5 Very dark (4)                      |
| 6 Craze (4)                 | 6 Knack (4,3)                        |
| 7 Mastic (4)                | 7 Huge bomb (11)                     |
| 8 Open area (6)             | 8 1960s peace movement (6,5)         |
| 9 One over (4)              | 9 Advice strongly (6)                |
| 10 Wide-mouthed (4)         | 10 Your (2)                          |
| 11 Clergyman (6)            | 11 Australian bush (6)               |
| 12 Performed song (4)       | 12 Blotchy-furred cat (7)            |
| 13 Poetic through (4)       | 13 Electric shock treatment (11,1,1) |
| 14 Church service (3)       | 14 Muslim slaughter (2)              |
| 15 Penetration (3)          | 15 Barry carriage (4)                |
| 16 Release from blame (7)   | 16 Homeless child (4)                |
| 17 Seductive woman (5,6)    | 17 Unpleasant-looking (4)            |

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle will appear on Saturday. Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise.

## Selling at Sotheby's

Closing dates for forthcoming sales are now included in our weekly calendar, which appears today on page 12

Sotheby's







## Hay, you can't do that down here

by Celia Curtis

The self-proclaimed king of Hay-on-Wye, Richard Booth, the 45-year-old eccentric whom the *Guinness Book of Records* recognized as owning the largest second-hand bookshop in the world, may be deposed on Guy Fawkes Day.

Behind the plot is Leon Morelli, a London School of Economics graduate, who heads a vast London-based international mail distribution service. Morelli, reputedly a millionaire, arrived in the sleepy Welsh border town of Hay three years ago when Booth's business was going through a financial crisis. He bought for £100,000 Booth's prime site in the centre of town, the former Plaza cinema, complete with half his stock of books.

King Richard (he announced the independence of Hay six years ago on April Fool's Day) believed that Morelli agreed that the two businesses would be complementary, specializing in different subject areas, but instead apparently went into competition with Booth's 20-year-old business and lured away many of his employees with offers of higher salaries.

Morelli now has his commercially astute eye on Hay Castle, perched on a prime site plumb in the middle of town, with crumbling Norman ramparts looming over a maze of narrow, winding streets.

Booth bought the castle in 1964 for about £7,000 and lives in a frugally furnished extension. In 1978 fire destroyed the roof. But renovation continues and Booth promises to open the castle to the public and make it available for local functions.

This summer Morelli, five years Booth's junior, launched a poster campaign challenging the "monarchy" to retool the castle by November 5 and threatening that if this was not done a vote would be held to decide who should be king.

Last week, on one of his infrequent visits to Hay, Morelli put the finishing touches to his modern version of the Guy Fawkes plot.



Booth: not amused

Today, all 1,800 households in Hay will receive a message asking: "Is Hay-on-Wye one man's self-declared 'kingdom' or another man's fondest dream?" Hay residents are expected to vote by throwing a dart, either at a caricature of the "king" or a portrait of Morelli. The incentive of a free glass of sherry is offered to those who aim at Booth.

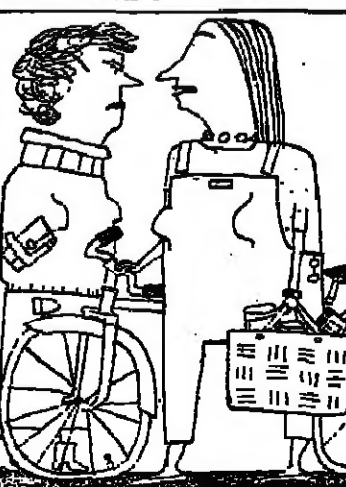
Asked whether his message hid a desire to succeed to the throne and possibly to take over the castle, Morelli replied that he had made a good offer for the castle which Booth had turned down.

In the bar of the Black Lion, Booth admitted he was not amused. He had once considered Morelli to be a friend, but now wanted nothing more to do with him. "If he thinks he can buy the friendship and loyalty of the townspeople, he has made a grave misjudgment," he said.

Undoubtedly, Booth has put Hay on the map since he arrived in 1961, a history graduate from Oxford. He opened a small second-hand bookshop with about 3,000 paperback books and in the course of time acquired some warehouses, the former fire station, an old workhouse, a butcher's shop, the Plaza cinema and the castle, filling them all to overflowing with books. He said that books are a tourist attraction and that he wanted to give book-selling a carnival image. "I think a town where the bookshops are bigger than the supermarkets can be a big attraction."

Booth does not shirk the overstatement. Since that outline of his book-selling philosophy, he has moved on to promoting a rural revival movement, the objects of which he details in a series of pamphlets with such titles as *Bring Back Horses* and *Why Woolworth will destroy Brecon*. He has also declared war on the local branch of a supermarket because he believes that the town's culture is threatened by the food the supermarket imports into the town. He is working on a scheme to promote the reintroduction of local milk, cheese, eggs and butter to rebuild the Hay economy.

BARRY FANTONI



'Neville says you can borrow his copy of the Booker prizewinner when he's finished not reading it'

As MPs debate cruise, John Barry examines Moscow's missile offer

## Andropov's disappearing trick



Soviet leadership. While he waited for that, however, Kvtitsinsky had no negotiating brief his instructions had expired on October 12.

Soviet sources in Western Europe now hint that the policy review in Moscow was a fundamental one. They even ask: "What do we want the SS-20s for, anyway?" In terms of negotiating tactics, Nato sources seem fairly confident that two separate questions were asked. In crude terms, would a significant Soviet concession now buy a deal acceptable to Moscow before Nato's scheduled December deployment deadline? If not, was it worth offering such a concession to buy a postponement of that deadline, in the hope that further political pressure on Western Europe over the coming months might force a change in Nato's position?

In late September, it looked as if the Soviet leadership was about to decide that a significant concession would be worthwhile. Nato sources say that Alexander Bortnikov, a commentator on *Izvestia* who is very close to Andropov - a drinking companion of long standing - dropped a hint that Moscow might cut its SS-20s trained on Western Europe to 80 or fewer in exchange for zero Nato deployments.

But as the policy review overran its mid-October deadline, the prospect of this concession faded. By 10

days ago, Nato sources were fairly sure that the most Andropov was going to be able to offer was a concession aimed at winning a postponement of Nato's December deadline. There was even a good idea of what Andropov wanted to offer.

Nato's actual deployments in December will total 41 missiles: one squadron of nine Pershing-2s in West Germany; two squadrons of 16 cruise missiles apiece in Britain and Italy. The offer Andropov was expected to make was that the Soviets would "liquidate" 41 of its SS-20s within range of Western Europe if Nato would postpone these deployments. Even the timing of this offer was predicted: he was to announce it in a speech in Sofia on October 26.

Andropov did not however go to Sofia. He did not make his speech. (His health may explain that). Instead, he has announced Moscow's new offer in an interview in *Pravda*. And it emerges that he has been unable to persuade his colleagues in the Politburo to accept any of the concessions he is said to have wanted.

Culled from the official Tass text of his *Pravda* interview, the deal Andropov has been given authority to offer boils down to the following: Equality of warheads as between the European SS-20s and the British

and French missiles. There is nothing new here, except that Andropov claims this means "the USSR could have in Europe about 140 SS-20 launchers". Previous versions of this offer - it was first publicly broached by Andropov last December - have suggested a total of 162 SS-20s. In effect, Andropov is now offering to reduce that number by 22.

● A freeze on SS-20s in the Soviet Far East. This is new and significant. Its impact is muted, however, by two points. First, the freeze would come into effect only from the "entry into force" of any agreement. In the meantime, the Soviets can make haste to start building as many SS-20 bases in the Far East as they choose and, under previous Soviet freeze rules, those bases would then be entitled to install their complement of SS-20s. (Three new bases are already under construction in the Soviet Far East. Second, though the phrasing of the Tass text is ambiguous, Andropov seems to be saying that the freeze would be conditional upon the US accepting not merely a ban on any missiles of its own in the Far East (a prohibition Washington would accept), but also a ban on modernizing US aircraft based within range of the Soviet Far East.

● A abandonment of the 300 total systems. Again, Andropov's wording is ambiguous but it could be significant. All previous Soviet offers have said that both missiles and aircraft must be limited (a position Nato now accepts) and that the total of missiles plus aircraft in Europe must be no more than 300 by 1990 (a position Nato does not accept). Moscow now seems to have dropped this. Andropov offers "equal total levels of medium-range delivery aircraft in a mutually acceptable quantitative range, even though substantially differing from the one proposed by us earlier" which suggests the abandoning of the 300 limit.

So, if these interpretations are correct, it is an interesting and serious package. But it is nothing like as radical as Soviet sources had led Nato to expect. And, of course, the price of any deal remains what it has always been: zero Nato deployments. The most fascinating aspect of the *Pravda* interview is how much of it is taken up with Andropov's explanations of why he is not offering more. It is as if he is sending signals.

Andropov goes out of his way to explain why Moscow has decided not to offer "a unilateral reduction of its missiles in Europe" - in other words, the SS-20s - to induce a postponement of Nato's own deployments. Having argued that the withdrawal of the SS-20s and "more than one dozen" of the SS-5s do constitute unilateral reductions, he goes on to say: "There are no signs at all that the United States would be prepared to forgo such a deployment (of Pershing and cruise missiles) if the Soviet Union continued further to reduce unilaterally its missiles."

In other words, the Soviets have concluded that a postponement would buy them nothing, unless they were also to offer substantive concessions - Nato's right to deploy - which they still find themselves unable to agree among themselves. It is the nearest we are likely to get to a public admission that the Soviets' political campaign in Western Europe has failed.

But where does all this leave Yuri Andropov?

Gerald Kaufman

## Invade in haste, repent at leisure

Hon Members: "Nonsense".

That was how Hansard recorded jibes by some Conservative MPs during Denis Healey's speech in the emergency debate last week. What irked them was the doom-laden warning delivered by the Shadow foreign secretary: "If there is not an immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Grenada, the fighting may go on for months."

Clearly, those Tories felt that Mr Healey was exaggerating, and that a swift, surgical operation by the Americans would not only subdue resistance in Grenada but also enable an orderly and uncomplicated withdrawal after a decent interval.

Sadly, the experience of many years and many places is on the side of Mr Healey. Military actions, expected at the outset and relatively painless, sometimes drag on for years. Even on the occasions when the actual fighting ends quickly and in success, political commitments may bog down the victors.

The United States first sent "advisers" into Vietnam in April 1956. Before long thousands of American servicemen were enmeshed there, and the numbers went on increasing. The United States presence was brought ignominiously to an end 19 long years after it began, and by then 47,232 American servicemen had lost their lives.

In December 1979 Russian troops moved into Afghanistan, responding - in words which uncannily anticipated the reasons offered by the White House for going into Grenada - to an "insistent request" from the Afghan government "to give urgent political, moral and economic aid, including military aid". Nearly four years later the Russian forces are still there; between 4,000 and 10,000 of them have been killed.

In June 1982 the Israel Defence Forces (as, in this context ironically, they are officially named) invaded Lebanon in what was expected to be a speedy operation which would create a buffer zone to protect Galilee from terrorist attacks. The mopping-up force turned unwillingly into an army of occupation, and 517 of Israel's servicemen have so far been shot or blown up. It is a campaign which continues to this day, even though Mr Shamir's government is as desperate to end it.

All of these were military campaigns which aroused fierce controversy. However, even operations widely accepted as necessary can have unforeseen and disheartening consequences. When, as a result of a request from the Northern Ireland government (then based upon an elected Parliament in Stormont), British troops went into Londonderry and Belfast in August

1969, they were welcomed by Catholics and Protestants alike as upholders of law and order.

Fourteen years later, law and order in the Six Counties are in no better shape. The British troops are still there, not only reviled but under armed attack from extremists in both communities, and the death toll of members of the Army and Ulster Defence Regiment has reached 504.

Throughout much of the democratic world, the British expedition to retake the Falkland Islands from the Argentine aggressors was regarded as justified. The campaign lasted only a few weeks and ended in total victory, even though 237 British servicemen were killed. However, more than 16 months after the Argentine surrender British troops remain marooned in the Falklands.

No one has the faintest idea when it will be possible to withdraw them, and massive sums are being spent on providing a military infrastructure, even though it is almost universally accepted that Britain's position on the islands is ultimately untenable.

Military actions, entered into unthinkingly or even blindly, can have disastrous consequences for those who initiate them. True, Margaret Thatcher profited politically from the Falklands war. Lyndon Johnson, on the other hand, was destroyed by Vietnam. Menachem Begin left office in despair as Israel's Lebanon entanglement dragged on and on. Anthony Eden was forced out as Prime Minister after the invasion of Egypt in 1956 ended in ignominy.

The lesson of all of these operations is simple and grim. It is easy to decide to embark upon a military action, whether for the best of reasons or from motives manifestly less noble. Ending the action is a good deal more complicated even when, as in Lebanon but not in Vietnam - the invading army is in a strong position. In cases where the armed operation can be tidily concluded, as in the rare example of the Falklands, the military involvement is not necessarily brought to an end and may be succeeded by an almost insoluble political problem.

Grenada is the latest of a long series of small or weak states which have been turned into a battleground by a powerful nation acting unilaterally, and often in contravention of international law. President Reagan may be full of bravado for the time being. Like others who have launched into military action in a mood of ebullient confidence and self-justification, however, he may find that what began as a short-term solution can turn into a long-term burden.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Gorton.

Anne Sofer

## A German lesson for our schools

Anyone who believes there is a connexion between educational standards and economic output will read with gloom a recent comparative study of English and West German schooling standards published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, *Schooling Standards in Britain and Germany* by S. J. Prais and Karin Wagner. (If I were a Scot, I would bridle at that "British"; the Scottish system of education needs to be separately assessed.)

Put baldly we are doing very badly. Among the conclusions are that "about half of all German pupils compared with a quarter of all pupils in Britain, achieve a standard equivalent to a broadly-based O-level", that in mathematics "the German system has raised the level of attainment of its weakest 50 per cent of pupils to about that of the average pupil in England" and that "those in the lower half of the ability-range in England appear to lag by the equivalent of about two years' schooling behind the corresponding section of pupils in Germany".

The West German system is selective - but so also were the schools from which most of the English data came. Nor is it a "trendy versus traditional" argument, though the extremely wide range of the typical English maths syllabus for the lower half of the ability range draws critical comment in passing. It is a question, essentially, of expectations and targets; of attitudes and motivation. The Germans operate a system in which the great majority are expected to achieve a certificated standard - in other words to succeed. We have never in this country accepted that such a thing might be possible. ("Exams that everyone can pass? What nonsense!")

It is instructive to read the Norwood report, submitted to the Ministry of Education in 1943 on suggested changes in the secondary school curriculum and examinations. In describing the "type of pupil" for whom the secondary modern school and later the lower streams of comprehensive schools were intended to cater, the authors of the report seem almost to be describing some Caliban-like imbecile rather than one half of the population of an advanced industrial nation: "He finds little attraction in the past... and fails to relate his knowledge to other branches of activity. Abstractions mean little to him. His horizon is near and, within a limited area, his movement is generally slow." And beyond these assumptions, should require further prestige from Soviet arms and Soviet assistance. So the US-Soviet struggle is also being fought out at Geneva.

This same research document also reports that at the very highest level - the 5 per cent in England who continue with mathematics up to A-level - our performance outstrips West Germany's. And my greatest fear is the thought that the conservative (with both a large and a small "c") academic establishment will scan the report, sigh with relief and say "Well, all those comprehensive school teachers seem to be making a mess of it, but we're still ahead."

What we have somehow got to persuade them is that it is the very preeminence of this top 5 per cent that has directly led to the inadequacy of the other 95. As the report politely puts it: "The exceptionally high quality of the very best... has hindered a proper assessment of what is provided for those below the top."

Why do we have a chronic shortage of good maths teachers? Because the 5 per cent who have studied the subject to A-level, and the very much smaller percentage who have continued with it up to degree level, can mostly find more lucrative employment than school-teaching. Why cannot a larger proportion reach that level? Because the university establishment, in particular its science and maths faculties, have for 20 years fought a successful rearguard action against the introduction of a broader A-level curriculum like the French Baccalaureat or the German Abitur, which would oblige all candidates at this level to continue their study of maths.

The bottom half of the pupil population is failing so abysmally because they are subject to an examination system which is designed to pick out the brightest and fittest. It is not a system which sets targets or criteria and then tries to get the maximum number of children up to them. O-level is deliberately set so that only a quarter of the whole age group is capable of passing. It is like the exercise that used to be done in formal gymnastic drill: the children line up next to each other and then move an arm's length apart. The fixed point is the most able - all the rest shuffle down.

This is not a plea to remove competition from the education system but to change some basic assumptions. After all, practically all our children can, by the time they are eight or nine, read, write and cope with simple arithmetic - achievements that were thought appropriate only for a small elite a few hundred years ago. It is only our continuing elitist assumptions that are blocking a comparable hoisting of average standards now.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

## Robert Fisk on the high stakes in the Lebanon reconciliation talks



Five key figures at Geneva: Amin Gemayel, Camille Chamoun, Suleiman Franjeh, Saeb Salam and Walid Jumblatt

Geneva. Nine men are due to sit down in one of Geneva's best hotels today and try to reconstruct Lebanon. There will be a lot of memories at the table, and ghosts as well.

For the families that ruled Lebanon back in 1943, when its National Covenant was agreed, still largely control the country. Pierre Gemayel, a Christian Maronite who had been inspired by the Nazi rallies in 1936, had a hand in framing the Covenant, the carefully constructed system of power-sharing that gave the Christians the presidency because the 1932 census showed them to be in a narrow majority.

An even younger Camille Chamoun also helped, and so did a Christian from northern Lebanon named Hamid Franjeh. Saeb Salam, an enterprising Sunni Muslim businessman whose father had been a parliamentarian in the Ottoman empire, played a minor role, although the rather haughty Druze leader Kemal Jumblatt stood aside.

The frail and elderly Pierre Gemayel, father of President Amin Gemayel, will be there today. So will Chamoun and Saeb Salam. Hamid Franjeh's brother Suleiman will be there, representing the Christian Maronite and pro-Syrian opposition to the President. Walid Jumblatt, whose father was assassinated six years ago, is in Geneva.

It should be quite a party and it proves two things that with the men who failed Lebanon now trying to rebuild it, the chances of success do not look very high: and that Lebanon, despite its veneer of parliamentary democracy, is governed not by social consensus but family consensus.

Amin Gemayel obviously believes

## Who will top the table?

this. A 30-minute chat with Jumblatt, he has said, will clear up the problem.

Amin Gemayel rose through the Phalange but has ostensibly shaken off his Phalangist connections. He knows he has to make concessions, but wants to minimize their influence over the Phalangist militias. He hopes to preserve the present system of government, to keep the presidency in Christian Maronite hands, even though the Maronites are now a minority.

Under the 1943 Covenant, the presidency became Maronite but the prime minister was to be Sunni Muslim, the Speaker of Parliament a Shia Muslim, and the army chief of staff a Druze, under a Maronite commander. A similar pattern embraced all the ministries.

There was, however, no census after 1943 - there had been none since 1932 - since the Christians were not keen to have their minority status confirmed. Yet the system continued in the interests of domestic peace.

Amin Gemayel now thinks he can get away with mere tinkering with this system. But Jumblatt, Franjeh and the former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, all allied to the pro-Syrian National Salvation Front, favour a prime ministerial government, giving real power to the Sunni Muslim premier and reducing the

control of the president, accepting a symbol of Maronite ascendancy with none of the substance. The Deuxieme Bureau security apparatus, now run by former Phalangists, would thus fall within Muslim control.

There will also be proposals at Geneva for a senate, chosen on the basis of sectarian representation, which would have a veto over the lower house. This would provide genuine parliamentary democracy while retaining a generally Muslim veto over legislation.

The Shia Muslims, deprived and poor but, at 1,200,000 the largest religious community, will have Nabih Berri to represent them. The government hopes to satisfy him with a ministry. The Sunni elite have always believed that the Shia can be bought. Mr Berri might prove them wrong.

But the internal struggle is only one of the conflicts which will influence the Geneva discussions. The Israeli-Syrian battle will also figure. Apart perhaps from Chamoun, Israel has few friends at the talks; but the Syrians will not only have their Lebanese friends there - a Syrian government representative will be present.

Just what the Syrians will demand is not known, although they have made no secret of their intention to destroy all Lebanon's links with the Israelis. So the National Salvation

Front is expected to insist on the abrogation of the May 17 unofficial peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon.

The Syrians would rather like Karami to be the next prime minister. As a Syrian writer, he would head a government falling deeply within Damascus's shadow.

The Americans probably accept that Israel's influence has ended as surely as its military adventure has collapsed. According to the Lebanese historian Kemal Salibi the Americans would like a settlement as soon as possible. "But they are worried that they may lose Lebanon. Lebanon is the gateway to the Arab world, which Israel does not want." Washington is thus putting pressure on Gemayel to make concessions.

If the United States applies too little pressure - or if Syria applies too much - the conference will fail in its objectives. But the Americans, meanwhile, have found another conflict in Lebanon. President Reagan sees it as part of the East-West struggle. Inevitably, American credibility is now at stake.

The problem is that Mr Reagan has also placed his country four-square behind Gemayel, whose legitimacy has become America's legitimacy in Lebanon. While the American naval bombardment of Souk el-Gharb last month saved the Lebanese army - and thus "the government's own legality, it also committed Washington to Lebanon's internal battle - and to last week's suicide bombings.

A failure at Geneva will draw the US deeper in Syria's ambitions will remain unsatisfied and it will thus require further prestige from Soviet arms and Soviet assistance. So the US-Soviet struggle is also being fought out at Geneva.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## NATO AND THE CARIBBEAN

There has been in Western Europe an indifference to developments in the Caribbean which was eventually bound to create tension within the North Atlantic Alliance. Stability in the Caribbean basin and the Gulf of Mexico is important to NATO for two reasons. The first, and most obvious, is that if the United States is distracted by what it feels to be a threat in a more vulnerable area closer to home than Europe it will have less time and effort to spend contributing to the security of West Europe or the Middle East. Secondly, in strictly logistical terms, the Caribbean basin and the Gulf of Mexico are important because in a European emergency at least 40 per cent of all American supplies and reinforcements for Europe are destined to pass that way. Thus the more that the Soviet Union and Cuba penetrate that area, the less secure a source of strategic supplies it would become.

If the broad purpose of the Alliance is to be sustained and strengthened these American preoccupations with Central American stability have to be more fully understood in Western Europe - Britain included. The result of continued indifference can only be a repetition of the communications failures and embarrassments of the Grenada operation. That, at least in the short term, will have given a new lease of life to the not-so-latent anti-Americanism evident both on the left and on the far right of British and most West European politics.

In the Caribbean Britain's departure and subsequent indifference had created a power vacuum. Whitehall was even agitating to remove the small British force in Belize, in spite of the American misgivings. There was little case law of Anglo-American cooperation and a wholly different emphasis as to the area's strategic importance to each ally.

Developments in Grenada and the fears of governments throughout the Association of East Caribbean States can now be seen to have given Washington more grounds for believing that an intervention would be legitimate than at first appeared. In international law an unsolicited armed intervention in a neighbouring country was clearly wrong, unless the intervening

state could show that its own nationals were at risk. That is how the operation was first presented. Since then Sir Paul Socon, the Governor General has emerged from hiding. His reserve powers to take the action he has and is taking - including a request for armed assistance - are quite incontestable. His emergence has put the matter in a different light.

As the sole remaining constitutional personality in Grenada he is entitled to use his prerogative to confer legitimacy, even retrospectively, on the whole operation, without reference to anybody including the Queen who, under the Grenadian constitution, had delegated full powers to him except when she is herself in Grenada. Sir Paul has been criticized for not contacting Buckingham Palace before taking any action. On the contrary, he had no need to do so and was well advised to leave Buckingham Palace right out of it.

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday on the television appeared to perpetuate the impression that the British government feels at best dismissive to Sir Paul's role in the crisis, and at worst incredulous. Sir Geoffrey maintained his view that the Americans had not yet adequately justified the intervention. Perhaps he is still the victim of British pique that the Governor General's appeal for assistance was made ultimately to the United States and not to Britain. The logic of the Foreign Office's position, where officials decline to authenticate the approaches made by Sir Paul to the Dominican Prime Minister and others, is that because he did not ask British diplomats for help, he did not ask anybody. That is a sad relic of a colonial attitude to the West Indian states which seems in Whitehall to have outlived any worthwhile sense of responsibility.

It would be a pity if ignorance, indifference and now irritation were to blight Britain's capacity to contribute wholeheartedly to the urgent work of reconstruction which is now required in the East Caribbean. The difficult task ahead will be for Grenada's colleagues in the Commonwealth to facilitate a political convalescence in such a way that the democratic help both of Grenada and her neighbours serves to substantiate the validity

of the military operation which has just occurred.

In the House of Commons today these events will inevitably be connected with the decision to proceed with the introduction of cruise missiles. It is important, however, to avoid making any such facile connections. The kind of procedures which govern the stationing of American missiles in this country are totally different from those which were lacking in the consultation about the Caribbean. There are no grey areas. There is case law covering the Anglo-American nuclear partnership for more than 30 years, enshrined in memoranda, and rearticulated with every changeover in the White House and Downing Street. It is agreed formally that American weapons based in Britain cannot be used without the consent of the British Prime Minister. American aircraft, armed with nuclear weapons, have been operating from British airfields at least since they were evicted from France in the mid 1960's, without Mr Denis Healey, even when he was Secretary of State for Defence, raising any of the objections he raises now.

Ultimately the Alliance will survive on the basis of mutual confidence or it will die. At the heart of that confidence lie the nuclear arrangements, both between the United Kingdom and the United States, and between the United States and her other allies. However rational and clear cut those arrangements are, confidence is ultimately an emotional commitment by each nation and its leaders. That is why the attempts to undermine European confidence in the United States are so often couched in the way most likely to play on people's emotions, through the portrayal of President Reagan as some kind of cowboy, or worse - but hardly less frequently - as the mirror image of President Andropov. It is a false picture and would any way be irrelevant since the nuclear arrangements have already outlived many Presidents and Prime Ministers, some better and some worse than President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher. With patience and optimism on both sides of the Atlantic they should outlive many more.

There will be much sympathy with your view that an additional legal restriction on reporting may be desirable. However, a danger in that course which needs to be weighed is apparent in the present case. Restricting the press - but not those in the public gallery - from naming someone who has been the subject of an allegation in court provides ideal forcing conditions for the growth of rumours about what was actually said about whom.

Yours etc,  
KENNETH MORGAN, Director,  
The Press Council,  
1 Salisbury Square, EC4,  
October 28.

## Court attacks on third parties

From the Director of the Press Council

Sir, Your leading article, "Innocent third parties" (October 28), was a welcome analysis of one of the two matters arising from the Old Bailey rape trial which have concerned the Press Council in recent years.

When the Contempt Bill was before Parliament the Press Council protested to the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney General, and members of both Houses that the proposed powers to ban publication of names of people referred to or involved in trials were too broad and imprecise to be in the public interest.

The main argument put then was that such powers could be used to protect victims of blackmail (not, as your report of October 26 suggested, the names of victims of rape cases. Identification of victims and the accused in rape trials is restricted by the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act).

The Press Council said the protection of blackmail victims was an aim with which journalists and editors would sympathise. It warned, however, that the wide-ranging powers proposed in the Bill were likely to be used for purposes never contemplated by Parliament.

The other point which had concerned the Press Council was that raised in your leading article: the problem of fairness in reporting an attack made during a trial on a third party who was not before the court. In 1978 the Press Council consulted the Magistrates' Association, the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Law Society about the problem. It then reminded editors that it was for their judgment whether to report a courtroom attack on an absent third party but warned that suppression might be ascribed to fear or favouritism.

Interestingly, in view of Mr Heath's decision, the Press Council announced then that there were occasions where the right course for a third party who believed unfair allegations had been made against him was to consult a lawyer about the possibility of making a correcting statement to the court concerned.

The Press Council said then, and the point is apposite now, that when an attack has been made on a third party it is desirable for the court to discharge its responsibility by indicating publicly how far it has accepted the allegations or taken account of them in reading its verdict or sentence. The responsibility then lies on the press, if it reported the allegations, to report, too, the court's view of them.

There will be much sympathy with your view that an additional legal restriction on reporting may be desirable. However, a danger in that course which needs to be weighed is apparent in the present case. Restricting the press - but not those in the public gallery - from naming someone who has been the subject of an allegation in court provides ideal forcing conditions for the growth of rumours about what was actually said about whom.

Yours etc,  
KENNETH MORGAN, Director,  
The Press Council,  
1 Salisbury Square, EC4,  
October 28.

## Battle for Hastings

From Councillor D. J. Amies

Sir, Your leader of October 21 suggested that the Government should close the "anomalous" Tonbridge to Hastings railway line despite objections from well-heeled commuters. Prior to the recent general election the Government promised substantial investment in the line to provide an improved service to the now impoverished town of Hastings - the Jarrow of the South-east.

To close this line would be a double tragedy for the eastern half of the area governed by East Sussex County Council. Starved of capital investment by that authority over the last ten years the area now has an adult male unemployment rate of around 20 per cent. Any prospect that remains is to a large extent dependent upon the fast rail service to London, both for commuting and for day trips to Hastings.

The local Conservative MPs have been assured that the line will remain open and have conveyed this view to the electorate. Meanwhile the asbestos-ridden rolling stock is slowly breaking down. Like other promises from this Government.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
DAVID AMIES,  
14 Fyne Meadow,  
Rogersbridge,  
East Sussex,  
October 22.

## Pricing gas

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, It is true, as Mr W. G. Jewers implies (October 14), that the Gas Corporation is not burdened with interest payments, but it is burdened with a Government levy of £525m which, if it was interest, would service a debt of some £4bn. Their profit and loss account would be no worse off if the corporation had such a debt, and the consumers would be £4bn better off. So prices could have been less by this amount over the years.

The corporation is pursuing a high profit policy which would not have been allowed by private utility companies before nationalisation.

Cheap gas would put pressure on the generating board to reduce prices and this in turn would put pressure on the coal board to sell coal at world prices.

With the resources of natural gas, oil and coal that we possess, our energy costs should be amongst the cheapest in the world.

Yours faithfully,  
KEN LIVINGSTONE, Leader  
Greater London Council,  
The County Hall, SE1,  
October 24.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Sites for radioactive waste disposal

From Mr David R. Cope

Sir, The most disturbing aspect of yesterday's announcement (report, October 26) that two sites in England are candidates for the possible disposal of intermediate-level nuclear waste is that the Secretary of State for the Environment appears to have failed completely to learn any lessons from the events following the selection of six sites in Scotland and England for high-level waste disposal tests in 1976-81.

Then, as now, there was an attempt to separate the public examination of the testing of the sites from public examination of the consequences of any subsequent construction at them. Then, as seems likely to occur again, it was argued that evaluation of this first stage in selecting sites should consider only the minor environmental effects, such as drilling noise, likely to arise and not those of any development that might follow.

Eventually, the previous Secretary of State, Tom King, was forced to concede, in ending that research programme in December, 1981, that test-drilling was a matter of national and not only local concern.

No community can be unaware that if it allows testing to go ahead in its area this must increase the chances of its being host to subsequent stages, rather than areas where testing does not occur.

The pressure on the selected areas

has also undoubtedly been increased by the recent rapidly developing international climate against the oceanic disposal of this type of waste.

The only way to handle the understandable concern which local residents and councils feel is for there to be a systematic, national, public examination of the entire policy of radioactive waste management, examining the suitability of all areas of the UK for land disposal and also the merits of oceanic and land sites.

Some machinery for this exists under section 43 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, but even if the formality of this approach is considered unwieldy, a planning inquiry inspector may, as at Sizewell, have a remit which allows the widest examination of the entire policy context of an individual land development.

To date, UK policy on radioactive waste management has been characterized by confusion, delay and political expediency. The piecemeal approach adopted by successive Secretaries of State ensures that suspicion is generated in one part of the country after another. Meanwhile, of course, the wastes continue to accumulate.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID R. COPE,  
The University of Nottingham,  
University Park,  
Nottingham.

### Fear of police powers

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, Some welcome concessions have been made by the new Home Secretary in the reintroduced version of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. Opposition to the Bill should not be weakened, however, because most of its objectionable features remain and no evidence has been advanced by the Government that any increased police powers are needed.

In particular, the novel power given to the police to detain an innocent person for up to 96 hours for the purpose of questioning has not been significantly modified. The preservation of the right of silence was expressly recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, and is not directly removed in the Bill, yet the only plausible reason for creating a power to detain a suspect in a police station "for questioning" is to enable pressure to be put on him to waive that right. The right to silence should be protected, not undermined.

The Government's response to criticisms of the detention powers has been to deny that they extend the law at all. In your columns of April 9, 1983, Mr Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, then Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Attorney General, claimed that there had been cases under present law in which people

had been detained lawfully for more than four days. Yet when I wrote to him asking for examples of such cases he did not reply.

A Home Office briefing document, prepared for the earlier version of the Bill, describes some cases in which suspects have been detained for more than four days without any complaint, but none in which such detention has been declared lawful.

There are those who have argued that the right to silence should be abolished, but when the eleventh report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee made this proposal in 1972, the public outcry was so great that it was hastily dropped.

The Government evidently seeks to revive the attack on the right to silence in a devious and underhand way. At the same time the privilege against self-incrimination is watered down.

It has always been a central feature of our system of criminal justice and safeguard for the innocent that the prosecution must prove its case without enforced assistance from the accused. Does the public understand that the Government are trying to take this fundamental liberty away?

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY BINDMAN,  
Bindman & Partners,  
1 Euston Road,  
Kings Cross, NW1,  
October 28.

### Tenancy by default

From Mr George Curtis

Sir, The anomaly of tenancies by default, to which Mr J. R. Curry drew attention (October 15), was surely wholly unintended by Parliament in the Agricultural Holdings Acts of 1948 and 1976, and should not only be removed, but retrospectively so, to right the most obnoxious injuries that have been committed.

I have a vested interest in tenancies, being a tenant in a small way of business. If tenancies which, as a form of land tenure, have served this country well over a long period of time are not to become extinct, the present rather ineffective CLA/NFU review of the Agricultural Holdings Acts needs to be beefed up, despite the screams that will arise. The new Act should achieve several things:

1. Deal with tenancies by default, retrospectively. Those who have taken land in this manner have behaved in a despicable way and deserve no sympathy at all.
2. Change the system of rent fixing from the present hypothetical, and wholly absurd, "open market" basis to one which reflects both the productive capacity of the holding, its layout and size, and the landlord's investment in fixed

equipment such as buildings, roads, electricity supplies, land drains and such like.

3. Remove the present succession arrangements, which are intellectually on a par with Arthur Scargill's screams that miners taking redundancy payments are selling their sons' jobs. Jobs are, in essence, abstract things, and not held upon either freehold or leasehold deeds.
4. The letting of land is a business. Income receivable from let land should be treated as income from a business. Until it is nobody in their senses is going to let any land for less than the market rate.

5. Pension funds should be barred from farming land held by them on their own account. Their tax-free status as operators distorts the scene for the rest of us who are obliged to pay taxes.

What the Act cannot do, and Parliament cannot provide for, is the extinction of the Labour Party, whose death has been much forecast of late, I suspect prematurely. With its commitment to nationalise all let land there is unlikely to be any rush of landlords until the party has been dead and buried for some ten years at least.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE CURTIS,  
Dalebrook House,  
Dedham,  
Colchester,  
Essex.

### 'Soviet threat'

From Mr Alan Lee Williams and Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, We do not believe that Mr Michael Cox (October 18) can be entirely serious when he asserts that Western intelligence estimates of Soviet intentions have not been soundly based. Indeed his further assertion that the Soviet Union is not much of a "threat" either appears to reveal a shallow grasp of contemporary international politics.

This is a pity because his point about the unattractive nature of Soviet socialism is well established and is worth reiterating in the light of the volatile situation in Eastern Europe. However, scepticism about the Soviet military threat should not be trivialized by simply disregarding the facts.

Mr Cox's letter is a classic example of the lack of relationship between Soviet reality and the way it is perceived by Western analysts who prefer to make radical assumptions based on a Western world view rather than on a detailed examination of documentation published in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet analysis of international relations does not allow for prolonged, global deadlock or lasting compromise, but envisages unending conflict, resulting in victors and in the vanquished (who are then dispatched to the "rubbish bin" of history).

More crucially, in this context, the

Soviet term "correlation of forces" does not imply a balance but refers to trends, with one side overtaking or falling behind its adversary. Contemporary Soviet literature places critical emphasis on "ideological struggle".

Moreover, Soviet leaders do not differentiate fundamentally between "military" and "civilian aspects of doctrine" - a concept arguably related more to classical "grand strategy" than to narrow Western definitions of military doctrine.

Mr Cox ignores the fact that the Soviet acceptance of the inevitability of global confrontation as the only way of resolving the conflict between two social systems has been constantly reiterated and more stridently advanced since the death of Stalin in 1953. Thus, since his death, it is no accident that the more optimistic period of "détente" and "peaceful co-existence" was also the occasion for the emergence of Soviet doctrine expounding "war-waging" and "war-winning" scenarios, rather than the more benign ideas associated with "détente" and "war-avoidance".

Stalin believed that nuclear weapons had made "Clausewitzian thinking" irrelevant. It is a pity that Stalin's view has not been shared by his tough-minded successors.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,  
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,  
Reform Club,  
Fell Mall, SW1,  
October 20.

## Out of step in the health service

From Mr N. P. Hayworth

Sir, Ten years ago "consensus management" was the order of the day. Now it's the reverse: strong leadership. Ten years hence it will be all change to a reaction from strong leadership.

Why is it necessary for every part of the health service to march in step? An alternative solution is to encourage experiment - different circumstances and personalities require different management solutions. After all, consensus management works very successfully in some health authorities.

Uniformity is bureaucratic tidiness, but I doubt if it produces effective management for all circumstances.

Yours sincerely,  
N. P. HAYWORTH, Director,  
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy,  
1 Buckingham Place, SW1,  
October 27.

From Professor A. C. P. Sims

Sir, In your article (October 19) concerning cuts in the National Health Service what the three examples you cited from different parts of the country had in common was the withdrawal of facilities for the treatment of the mentally ill.

This is occurring in many places despite the Government's stated intention of protecting mental health services. Mental health is extremely vulnerable at present because health authorities are tempted to capitalize on the wholly laudable change of emphasis from institutional to community care by making economies on hospital wards but not reallocating the resources saved on the same scale for necessary developments in the community.

Yours sincerely,  
A. C. P. SIMS,  
The University of Leeds,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
St James's University Hospital,  
Leeds,  
October 21.

From Mr John Hiltbourne

Sir, I am puzzled by the recommendations of the Griffiths report on efficiency in the National Health Service. I thought that the 1974 reorganization put through by Sir Keith Joseph and based on the work of McKinney and Co had already taken advantage of the best business had to offer.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HILTBOURNE,  
Penn House,  
Redpoll Road,  
Fenchurch,  
Bristol,  
Avon,  
October 26.

### Beinn Eighe plans

From Professor D. W. Harding

Sir, The award by the Council of Europe of its diploma to the Nature Conservancy Council for its management of the Beinn Eighe national nature reserve, and the recognition of the area as a wildlife habitat of international importance by the United Nations Man and Biosphere Programme (your report, October 22), serve to underline the insensitivity of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board's plans to develop the area immediately north of the Beinn Eighe reserve and the National Trust's estate at Torridon.

Proposals include the building of dams, aqueducts, roads and power stations by the rivers Talladale and Strath, which flow into Loch Maree on its southern shore, between Kinlochewe and the Loch Maree hotel.

The fact that the planned capacity of both schemes is at present only 9.5 megawatts hardly mitigates the damage which such a development will inflict on a unique environment and makes it scarcely credible that such an increase could not be accommodated within existing schemes elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
D. W. HARDING,  
14 Drummond Place,  
Edinburgh,  
October 22.

### Death in the forest

From Mr Recorder P. J. E. Jackson

Sir, From our balcony here, we can see for miles and the Black Forest appears as healthy and beautiful as ever. Acid rain is discussed locally, but I have seen no demonstration.

The foresters seem to have things well in hand and I am further reassured by Professor Kenneth Mellanby's letter in *The Times* on October 26.

Yours etc,  
PETER J. E. JACKSON,  
7298 Lossburg,  
Kreis Freudenstadt,  
Hauptstrasse 29,  
West Germany.

### Off the rails

From Mr Charles Mitchell

Sir, In his "Letter from Delhi" (October 20) your Correspondent writes of the procedure for locating one's seat on an Indian train. He fails to elaborate, however, on the potential nuances of this game.

Tactics encountered at Amritsar this summer were to confound the would-be English traveller by tying his name on the reservation list in Hindi (no mean feat, this), followed up by the awesome *comp de finesse* of removing the Tourist Quota carriage from the train altogether.

Doubtless an admirable precaution against British Rail spies! Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES MITCHELL,  
41 Green Park,  
Cambridge,  
October 21.

## REPEATABLE MARRIAGE VOWS

For a very long time the Church of England has taken the view that it could not at the same time maintain its doctrine that marriage is or ought to be indissoluble while permitting those who had been divorced to marry again under the church's auspices. Any compromise on the latter, even in the hardest of hard cases, would weaken this public witness. This proposition, however, has been eroded more recently by others no less persuasive: that the church must witness to the mercy as well as the justice of God; that forgiveness and new beginnings are always possible, and those who have fallen from grace should be not condemned but helped and encouraged.

This argument finally persuaded the General Synod in July to agree in principle that there were certain circumstances in which the church should marry divorced persons, and it commissioned the preparation of draft proposals for a scheme to carry this change of policy into effect. Now the synod meeting next week has to decide whether the scheme, as drafted, does what it wishes it to do. Will it identify the worthy cases?

The answer, give or take some rough justice, is probably that it will. A devout church-goer, one who has been abandoned by a spouse without good cause, who has fulfilled such outstanding family obligations as are possible and who humbly accepts a share of responsibility for past failure,

could apply under this system with confidence: one whose attitudes are at the opposite extreme would be wasting the church's time. Some cases will fall in the middle, but the church's pastoral instinct would be to give the benefit of the doubt in favour of the applicant; and the scheme avoids a legalistic approach, and the kind of hair-splitting which is sometimes alleged against the Roman Catholic nullity system.

There are two further tests which these proposals will have to pass, however. Divided as it is both on the wisdom of this step and on the fundamental theology of marriage, the Church of England must look to its own unity. Proposals utterly rejected by a significant minority could do considerable harm. The discipline required by these proposals demands wide agreement if it is to hold. Fortunately they have been drafted very much with the known views of the church's dissenters in mind, to accommodate all but the strictest indissolublists. The Archbishop of Canterbury had justice behind his recent complaint that the draft scheme was being condemned unseen.

The second test is that of natural justice, and here the scheme is defective. Because permission for a second marriage in church is described as a "dispensation", and what is being sought is not a right, the scheme makes no provision for appeal, nor even for a rejected

applicant-couple to be told the terms of the verdict against them. What is missing is not a whole apparatus of formal appeal, but an opportunity for an impartial review by some independent authority, including the opportunity to explain points in the original particulars.

In marriage breakdown many of the facts are ambivalent. The synod would do well to incorporate an umpire into its scheme, for it must take every precaution to diminish the inevitable sense of injustice in those who are refused. Further to that, it should also be possible for permission to be granted for a marriage in church subject to certain conditions, for example that disputes concerning matrimonial property or maintenance should be settled first. The possibility of conditional consent is a surprising omission, as it may lead to a refusal in certain cases where some unsatisfactory detail could well be put right in good time.

Minded as it now is to proceed in this direction, the General Synod has a workable method at hand for doing so, improvable but workable as it stands, and capable of keeping the church together as it proceeds into uncharted waters. Whether it will in the long run undermine the church's witness to the permanence of marriage is a gamble the Synod has already decided to take, and is an objection not to these proposals but to last July's decision.

Another Tory authority, Bromley, also stands to pick up a big bill if the GLC's strategic recreation facilities are passed to the boroughs. It would be interesting to see how the ratepayers of Bromley took to paying for a regional facility like the Crystal Palace sports centre.

Councillor Williams seems confused on the issue of joint boards. He condemns the fire brigade to unrepresentative management by a joint board since it is "not a matter of great public controversy or political interest".

The present administration at County Hall has spent two years reversing cuts (firefighters and appliances) made by the Tories under Horace Cutler. Yet if the new joint board is to meet Government spending targets (which presumably is the object of the entire abolition exercise) it would have to shed 1,600

firefighters and more Londoners would undoubtedly die in fires. No public controversy? No political interest?

But Councillor Williams reserves his most muddled thinking for the question of public transport. Having first extolled what he sees as the past successes of joint boards at this field, he then concedes that "a joint board of 32 boroughs might be too cumbersome" and concludes by arguing for a directly-elected body to run public transport in London.

Funny, that sounds to me reasonably like a description of the GLC...

Yours faithfully,  
KEN LIVINGSTONE, Leader  
Greater London Council,  
The County Hall, SE1,  
October 24.

### Role of the GLC

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, Councillor Charles Williams (October 24) suggests that GLC functions like entertainment licensing and recreation services "can be perfectly well managed by the boroughs."

I hope he has consulted his Conservative colleagues on Westminster Council who would take over responsibility for licensing the large number of theatres and cinemas in the West End. In practice, of course, the standards of public safety and environmental control in London could become extremely patchy and inconsistent, depending on how each individual borough decided to meet Government cuts and "rate-capping" instructions.







## THE ARTS

Tonight at Covent Garden the distinguished Soviet film director Andrei Tarkovsky stages his first opera, *Boris Godunov*: John Higgins exclusively interviews him about it

## Spectacle crystallized into inner drama



Photograph of Andrei Tarkovsky by Harry Kerr

Covent Garden took a long time to announce the production of their new *Boris Godunov*, which opens at the Royal Opera House tonight. For over a year negotiations have been on, then off, and finally on again with Andrei Tarkovsky, the most distinguished Soviet film director of his generation. The negotiations finished by being on, and since the beginning of the month Tarkovsky has been in London working on the first opera he has staged.

There is still a certain amount of argument over who first persuaded Tarkovsky to desert the cinema temporarily for opera. He himself insists that Sir John Tooley, Covent Garden's general administrator, made the first official approach. But the instigator was almost certainly Boris's conductor, Claudio Abbado, whose interest in films is well known. The inspiration could well have been Tarkovsky's *Andrei Rublev*, which was made in the mid-Sixties but was not shown in the West until 1973. The story of the fifteenth-century Russian icon painter is not so far away from the period of *Boris*. But if the idea came from Abbado, who has not been heard at Covent Garden since 1975, then the persistence came from Sir John. And that looks like being rewarded.

However, opera-goers and Russian observers alike will note that it is

just over three years since Abbado conducted a major and controversial production of *Boris* at La Scala staged by another Soviet, Yuri Lyubimov, who was much in the news last month. Lyubimov presented *Boris* as a massive Slavonic church ritual on a single set, with the proceedings opened and closed by the monk-historian Pimen. Tarkovsky's approach is likely to be very different, but he is not prepared to make any comparisons because he did not see the work of his compatriot.

Tarkovsky, who is 50 this year, is a wiry man with a mop of hair, still unlicked by grey, which constantly has to be pushed out of his eyes. His features have a lined, lived-in look which makes him a little like Charles Bronson in non-pugilistic mood. With Abbado he talks Italian, acquired obviously while he was making his most recent film (to be shown in Britain later this week), *Nostalgie*, with others he speaks Russian and an interpreter.

"The proposal to work at Covent Garden was totally unexpected, but after reflection I realized that it could be interesting. I had not met Claudio Abbado before I was approached by Sir John Tooley, but it is very possible that Abbado knew *Rublev* and perhaps he thought that I would bring some of the principles of the cinema here to Covent

Garden. But film and theatre are totally different. When I work on stage my methods are never those of the film set.

"Let me say at once that I am not interested in the pomp that sometimes surrounds Mussorgsky's opera. My chief concern is with the inner drama of Boris himself, and I think that even if I were filming the opera I would still make it an intimate work. Let me say too that *Boris Godunov* has a special, and lonely, place in the repertoire. Italian opera is a genre unto itself so is German opera. *Boris* is set apart in that it is a marriage of music and play, Pushkin's of the same name. My belief is that Mussorgsky destroyed the building erected by Pushkin and then reassembled it, using every single stone, but in a different structure. Pushkin put up a city with a hierarchy, Mussorgsky made a palace."

There is no mention of the later modifications added by Rimsky-Korsakov because they will not be heard at Covent Garden. The version of the score will be that edited by David Lloyd-Jones, which was also the one Abbado used at La Scala. The conversation does, though, constantly revert to Pushkin.

The most important scenes in the play and the opera, such as the death of Boris, are Shakespearean in

flavour. Boris is a tragic hero in the line of Macbeth and Lear. Maybe he is a clearer figure in Pushkin than in Mussorgsky because there are fewer characters in his way, but I want to probe into his psychology. I'm often accused of wishing to complicate everything and perhaps that criticism is right.

"At the centre of *Boris* is not the problem of power but of a man broken by power. It is about those who take on power and then find that they cannot handle it. It is also about conscience. Perhaps an alternative title for *Boris* would be 'Golos Boga' (The Voice of God), in other words 'The Voice of Conscience'. *Godunov* is a lonely man who talks only to Prince Shuisky, but as he talks he looks at Shuisky with horror because this is the man who will carry on the tradition of murder. As surely as Boris killed Dmitri at Uglich, so will Shuisky murder Feodor and Xenia, Boris's children. Crime begets crime." A decade ago David Robinson, writing on this page about *Andrei Rublev*, observed that "Tarkovsky's characteristic hero is always, it seems, a human being in an alien world". And that still appears to hold good.

Apart from Boris (sung by Robert Lloyd, the first Briton to play the role at Covent Garden) and Shuisky (Philip Langridge), Tarkovsky's

main concern has been with the Simpleton (Patrick Power). "That role is all too often completely misconceived. He tends to be presented as a 'character' and it is thought that the more 'personality' he has the better. On the contrary, he is a concept in the way that Prince Mishkin or Don Quixote is a concept. He too is alone and his job is to emphasize the error of the way the people decide to take. I want his face obscured throughout the opera, so he will have a sack over his head which he takes off only at the very end, facing away from the audience."

"Pushkin's play ends with the cry of 'Long live Shuisky!' and then comes the stage direction: 'The people remain silent.' Mussorgsky closes with the Simpleton and I see the removal of that sack as the most important gesture of the opera."

Our conversation closes, as it began, with Pushkin, who is up there in Tarkovsky's private pantheon along with Bach, Dostoevsky, Leonardo, Shakespeare and Tolstoy. His attention will now turn to Shakespeare and *Hamlet* in particular, which he is planning to film. Production details have been under discussion during the *Boris* rehearsal period.

● Riverside Studios are to run a retrospective of Tarkovsky's films from November 22 to 26.

## PUBLISHING

## Shotgun birth of the trade paperback

All paperbacks currently in the best-seller lists are priced between £1.75 (the slim-line *F. Plan Diet*, so you pay less for it) and £2.95: *The Oxford Dictionary* and last year's Booker Prize winner, *Schindler's Ark*. These books are in the best-seller lists not because they have soft covers, which they have, but because their courageous publishers printed as many copies as they did, thus allowing them to bring their prices right down.

At the other end of the scale are the new hardbacks, mostly between three and four times as expensive. As publishers increasingly have difficulty in selling serious books in hardback in sensible quantities, a new animal has been brought into being: the trade paperback. It is priced somewhere between a hardback and a mass-market reprint paperback, and in size tends to be closer to the original edition. This is for the simple, logical reason that - assuming there is a hardback, which usually there still is - the trade paperback has been printed on the same quality of paper, at the same time and on the same machine as the hardback.

Trade paperbacks are here, but not necessarily to stay. The logic behind them is roughly skin to that which insists that a camel is a horse designed by committee. The reasoning, if so it may be described, goes something like this: "Hardbacks are expensive, relatively speaking, and they are expensive not because they have stiff covers but because relatively few copies are printed. Mass-market paperbacks are cheap because many copies are printed, and large numbers are able to be printed (usually) because the existence of the hardback, a year or so before the paperback, has made the public aware of the book."

If we produce an animal somewhere between hardback and paperback, print two or three times the number of copies we would have dared do in hardback and sell them at roughly half the retail price, maybe the world will scent a bargain - or at least a decent deal - and buy.

I do not believe that the trade paperback will make lasting inroads there, rather than in the USA, where they order matters differently because, ultimately, if people really want or need a book they will buy it in hardback, or in mass-market paperback if it becomes available, or borrow it from their public libraries. Who wants an

animal on his or her shelves that looks betwixt and between, a hardback without hard covers? And, because the books are castrated hardbacks, you cannot flex them in your hands the way you can proper paperbacks, and the covers bend or crack.

Most general publishers now have trade paperback series, or at least publish the odd trade paperback, as Collins and Hodder & Stoughton do. Lord Weidenfeld is employing Mark Collins, former head of and

impulse behind Fontana, to assess whether Weidenfeld & Nicolson should start up a trade paperback list. The mass market paperback imprints mostly now have trade paperback lines. Sphere call theirs Abacus, which hardly complements their financial director, Corrie's, to be launched next Spring, is Black Swan (why black?), Pan's is Picador, Hamlyn's Gonodora - which suggests either the fantasies or pretensions of someone. Penguin's is King Penguin, which goes to show what short memories Hammondsworth or King's Road has. You get the idea, and the books are more up-market, or literary.

The BBC's is Ariel, more in homage to the Eric Gill relief on the front of Broadcasting House than what is increasingly needed these days to time in to their programmes. Fontana have just published the first titles in their trade paperback list, Flamingo; and Hutchinson seem to have as many trade paperback imprints planned, or unplanned, as they have editors.

The latest to be unveiled is Routledge & Kegan Paul's, immediately before they announced the names of their much needed new group managing director, Philip Sturrock, together with the fact that last year they had a pre-tax loss of £58,221.

Their trade paperback list is called Ark and whether, when it was christened, they had the Covenant in mind I suspect the Ark in question is now more to do with survival (as in Schindler, as indeed in Noah) than inspiration.

If the trade paperback can assist publishers of serious books, such as Routledge, to clamour away from their present economic difficulties, it will have more than justified its shotgun birth and hybrid condition. To the book buyer, it can mean a cheaper commodity, and to the author an additional source of revenue.

E. J. Craddock

## Theatre

## Lovers Dancing Albery

A playwright with *Staircase* and *Rattle of a Simple Man* behind him has much to live up to. Charles Dyer earns our sympathy for that, but also our envy: it is no mean name that can secure a West End management, a good theatre and an all-star cast for this extraordinary piece, alternately rarefied and coarse, baffling expectation with its flatness, its real pathos, its flashes of brilliance and surreal portraiture set in a traditional framework of mixed-doubles comedy.

In *Staircase*'s cast of two, a gay relationship of many years' standing, Mr Dyer showed the weaker partner revealing itself as the stronger. *Lovers Dancing* pits an apparently fast coug (married) against a successful couple in the same way. The gentlemanly Paul Eddington and the brusquely thrusting Colin Blakely can pinpoint the moment when their paths diverged: the ballroom dancing tournament when Mr Eddington's trousers fell halfway round the floor.

What followed was marriage to each other's partner, Mr Blakely waiting off for a while with a silver cup, the glamorous Mrs Dyer (Georgina Hale) and a winner's ruthlessness that duly brings wealth and glowing invitation to an annual celebration that dare not be refused by Mr Eddington and his sad wife (Jane Carr), their dreams shrunk by running the local chemist's shop.

The successful are as unsatisfied as the failures and a good deal guiltier. Left alone with the ex-medical chemist, Mr Blakely immediately confides fears of impotence, fury at his wife's habit of painting young soldiers in the nude, and worries about his unconvincing abundance of umbilical fluff (a typical detail). All are tormented by the need to shine.

The moment they are still supposedly celebrating 19 years later teens with still-festering doubts; who deliberately frayed the trouser buttons Mr Eddington's future depended on, who sired the child that Miss Hale conceived in a muddled four-in-a-bed night? She kept him, with all the other prizes, but the failures' life is not as sterile as it seems.

In tone and style, though, the play brings unpleasant surprises. Artificial, heightened language such as humans never spoke. Mr Dyer has not lost his gift for a fresh poetic phrase (a

Was Jonathan Miller overcome by a fit of morality at the end of his new production of *The Beggar's Opera* (BBC2)? Instead of saving the anti-hero Macheath from the hangman's noose because of the Beggar's plea that the audience needs a happy ending, he sent Macheath swinging while the matter was still under discussion.

It was the only trick in a production which started more for its precise faithfulness to the period and mood of the original than for any revelatory redating: I am surprised Miller was not tempted by the glamorously vicious London crime scene of the 1960s. But here the music came first: gone was the folksy

prissiness of the familiar Dent and Britten versions of the score. I did not count, but most of the 69 original songs seemed to be included.

Gay worked a revolution in 1728 with this *Hundred Best Tunes* score by actually making his actors sing, not leaving the music to self-contained interludes. The plucky actors in Dr Jonathan's show sang the modest tunes with modest skill. Roger Daltrey's much-heard-

ed Macheath turned out to be mainly swagger and girl-propping: he hit his songs with a blunt instrument. Stratford John's policeman-turned-Peachum troled easily through the melodies; Peter Bayliss's Lockit, given a doubling bassoon in the orchestra, was incomparably grotesque.

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Range of reaction: Jane Carr (left), Paul Eddington, Georgina Hale, Colin Blakely

perturbed character "feels as though all his nerve ends were gossamer" but much of it is embarrassingly unspeakable and sits uncomfortably among the coarsenesses.

Finding naturalistic impersonation impossible, the cast react variously. Mr Eddington retains a ministerial dignity, Mr Blakely barks out the tortured prose defiantly, Miss Carr retreats into poisonous princess and Miss Hale goes squawking and posturingly right over the top. What is her accent? A sour cocktail of Deep South, Home Counties and heaven knows what.

A curious silence descended on the audience as they tried vainly to explain it, nor did her reminiscences of a dockland childhood floating boats in pools of horses' urine do much to clear up the mystery.

The script fails, possibly does not even try, to achieve the kind of pathos through laughter that was such an appealing feature of *Staircase*, though several of that play's unfunny lines are rebashed and look no better for the experience. Donald McWhinnie, the director, had an unenviable task. Even the funniest moments, such as Miss Hale settling herself amid her frothing pink petticoats as if lounging in a bubble bath, suggest either the blackness of opulence or the coarseness of failure. Neither, in the long run, is a laughing matter.

Anthony Masters

Francis Greenwich

The secular public has always had a soft spot for St Francis of Assisi; but whether or not this factor weighed with Julian Mitchell in choosing him as a

hero, his play is calculated to inflame the prejudices of non-Catholic spectators.

Francis is a stage biography in a manner that would have looked dated to Dorothy L. Sayers. The heart sinks at the first moments of David Williams' production when a group of Dark-Age rowdies burst in, roaring a drinking song in strict organon, and referring to the absent Francis as "the best master of revels we've ever had".

The missing tearaway then appears, having just undergone a lightning conversion, and kissed a leper, whereupon his cronies sink away leaving Francis to receive further instruction from an illuminated crucifix. Church repair is the first job, and he sets to with a will by putting the altar back in place - a simple task as it seems to be made of plywood.

In no time, Francis has gathered converts to his new order, and is preaching to the birds. Rome has doubts, but, as his rule of total poverty is taken literally from the Gospels, it gets papal approval. "orthodox enthusiasm" always being welcome.

Then, the backsliding begins. Some brothers start having an unhealthy interest in getting a roof over their heads, and owning things like psalters. And what should they do with beans that have to be soaked overnight if they are forbidden to take any thought of the morrow?

For a while, Francis brushes these obstacles aside, but as his order grows, sending missions around Europe, and taking Francis himself to the Crusades, the original band of beggar preachers turns into a corporate establishment. Disillusioned, Francis disowns it, and when we last see him, his naked body is being loaded with all the

passionate in temper; and Rosemary Ashe's Lucy, small and fierce, who suddenly blossomed in one of Purcell's three superb melodies. Isla Blair was a sinister, serious Jenny. The arrangements by Jeremy Barlow were uncluttered; John Eliot Gardiner conducted the baroque band crisply.

In *Juliet Bravo* (BBC1) an overwrought policeman started punching a man in a hospital waiting room. In *Peeping Tom* (BBC1), the chilling 1960 movie, girls were killed by a man as he filmed them. What a civilized place Hogarth's London was.

Nicholas Kenyon

Max Bell

## Concert

## Hysterical precision

BBCSO/Tabachnik Festival Hall/Radio 3

Perhaps one should refrain from comparisons at so early a stage, but my goodness there was a lot more life in Friday's opening concert of the Music of Eight Decades series that has so far appeared in the companion Great British Music Festival. There was also a lot more death, with the main work being Ligeti's massively solemn and hysterically funny, or massively funny and hysterically solemn, *Regnum* of the mid-Sixties.

Michael Tabachnik conducted a clean, clear, evenly-paced performance of this wholly extraordinary piece, recognizing that the drama and the absurdity depend on the most exact precision. The first movement's slowly rising cloud was utterly cold, and so all the more alien and - awesome. Possibly the Kyrie, mumbled by shifting mobs of choral voices, was more effective for radio listeners: the sight of ranks of black-clothed ladies and gentlemen does detract from one's sense of the heedless crowd. But the Dies Irae is so rich in the comic macabre that no visual formality can keep it in check, especially when its nice thrusts of terror and mockery are being placed with such accuracy as they were here.

Sarah Walker was the strong mezzo soloist, and Dorothy Dorow carefully filled in the musical high screams for an indisposed Phyllis Bryn-Julson. Both were nicely spiritualized in the short last movement, where

they appear as sole survivors of Armageddon.

From the same period of frenetic, explosive activity in the dying avant garde we had the Cello Concerto by Bernd Alois Zimmermann, a work which pulled off the remarkable feat of making Boulez dance with Henze. Here were flashes and fountains of pitched percussion music from the Frenchman's recent *Eclair*; there were the decadent jazzy undertones of Zimmermann's German contemporary. And, through it all, was threaded a line of intense virtuosity for the soloist, which Heinrich Schiff made into a keen, pared down, incisive display of musicianship.

The concerto's balletic scenario - it is a triptych of imaginary triple encounters among varied personages - may have remained obscure, but the cross-play of characterful musical statements was thoroughly aroused, and the work revealed as one of this puzzling composer's most perfectly achieved, triumphant in its oddity and unconnectedness.

Before this, we had heard Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* given almost equally colourful treatment. The BBC may not field the most virtuosos string orchestra in the world, but Mr Tabachnik's warm lead was followed with impressive honesty and endeavour and many individual beauties of texture, harmony and tune had the space to shine in a performance of thoughtful slowness.

Paul Griffiths

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## Wham!

## Hammersmith Odeon

Watching Wham! perform live confirms the suspicion that 1983 has marked the return of the teenybopper. Wham! fans, the majority young girls, possess all the characteristics that define the type: they scream constantly, they know all the words, they cling to each other for comfort and their parents are waiting in the theatre foyer to whisk them back to bed afterwards.

Wham! are in the same tradition that spawned Bobbie Soxers and Beatlemania. Managed by the Sixties Svengali Simon Napier Bell, they are rehearsed to act out fantasy up to the hilt. The lead singer, George Michael, draws with most of the ooohs and aahs a performance that is alternately lascivious and embarrassing and always hilarious. His shimmer foil, Andrew Ridgeley, simpers shyly at Michael's side, clutching a decorative guitar with minimum effect. As with the American soul duo Hall and

Oates, their act is summed up by the fact that one sings, the other does not.

Still, the duo have enjoyed enormous chart success with a string of hits and a popular album, modestly titled *Fantastic*. As expected they turned on a slick display, repeating "Bad Boys" "What's Raps" "Enjoy What You Do?" and "Young Guns (Go For It)" until every last exclamation mark had been rapped home.

The show is made nearly bearable by session men who give the songs a credibility they

## Rock

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Investment and Finance

City Editor  
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office  
200 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8EZ  
Telephone 01-337 1234

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Sydney: AO Index: 682.7  
down 5.8  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank  
Index: 1006.9 up 6.9  
Brussels: General Index  
122.73 down 2.51  
Paris: CAC Index: 141.3 up 1.6  
Zurich: SKA General: 291.9  
up 0.4

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling  
\$1 4955 down 65pts  
Index: 83.5 up 0.2  
DM 3 9225 up 0.0425  
FF 11 9350 up 0.094  
Yen 348 25 down 1.0  
Dollar  
Index: 126.2 up 0.8  
DM 2 6210  
NEW YORK CLOSE  
Sterling: \$1 4957  
Dollar: DM 2 6210  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU: 0.576905  
SORE: 7.09991

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates  
Bank base rate 9  
Finance houses base rate 10  
Discount market loans week  
fixed 9.8-9  
3 month interbank 9.8-9.16  
Euro-currency rates  
3 month dollar 9.16-9.18  
3 month DM 5.8-5.4  
3 month FF 12.4-12.4  
US rates  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9.6  
Treasury long bond 100/32-102/32  
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling  
Export Finance Scheme (V)  
Average reference rate for  
interest period September 7 to  
October 4, 1983 inclusive:  
9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)  
am \$387.25 pm \$384.50  
close \$386.50 (\$256.50)  
New York (close) \$386.50  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$388.39 \$50 (\$266.267)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$90.91 (\$60.25-65)  
Excludes VAT

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Arbuthnot  
Sterling Fund, Scott and Robertson,  
Nassau, Leas, Vintor  
Resources Trust. Finals: Grant  
pharm, Stothert and Pitt  
TOMORROW - Interims: Clement  
Clarke, Flight Refuelling, Race  
International, Finis: A & G  
Security Electronics, British Car  
Auction  
WEDNESDAY - Interims: Elks and  
Goldstein, Finis: Peters Stores,  
Pineapple Dance Studios, Sate-  
guard Industrial Investments, Wol-  
sey-Hughes  
THURSDAY - Interims: Henry  
Boot Computer and Systems  
Engineering, Fleming Far Eastern  
Investment Trust, Hambro Invest-  
ment Trust, Hoover (Central)  
Milets Leisure Shops, Northern  
Securities Trust, Portsmouth and  
Sunderland Newspapers, Finis:  
Berry Trust, Intervention Video  
Wemyss Investment Trust  
FRIDAY - Finals: W. Tzack, Sons  
and Turner

ANNUAL MEETINGS

TODAY - Epure Holdings, The  
Charing Cross Hotel, WC2 (noon)  
The Globe & Phoenix Gold Mining  
Company, 24, Giltspur Street,  
London, W1 (noon) Industrial  
Finance & Investment Corpora-  
tion, The Armourers Hall 81  
Coleman Street, EC2 (noon), Jos  
Holdings, 20 Fenchurch Street  
EC3 (noon), W E Norton (Hold-  
ings), Brown Stapley & Company  
Founders Group, Lombard Street  
EC2 (noon)  
TOMORROW - PNC, Agriculture  
House 25/31 Knightsbridge SW1  
(noon), Mills & Allen International,  
The Gaziers Hall 9 Monague  
Close London Bridge SW1 (noon)  
Scottish & Mercantile Investment  
The Great Eastern Hotel EC2  
(noon)  
WEDNESDAY - Consolidated  
Gold Fields, Hotel Inter Continental  
Grand Ballroom Entrance One  
Hammer Lane W1 (11.30)  
THURSDAY - Amal Petroleum, The  
Cafe Royal 68 Regent Street, W1  
(noon), Westpool Investment  
Trust, Carlton House 33 Robert  
Adam Street W1 (5.00)  
FRIDAY - Adelphi Group, The  
Dorchester Hotel Park Lane  
(noon), Meat Trade Suppliers,  
Metrol House, 62/68 St John  
Street, EC1 (12.30).

# LBS forecasts sustainable recovery with fewer jobless and 6% inflation

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain is set on a course of sustainable recovery over the next few years, with falling unemployment and no resurgence in inflation, the London Business School says in its latest economic forecasts published today.

It is predicting 2 to 2½ per cent growth in 1984 and 1985 after more than 2½ per cent this year. Inflation is set at around 6 per cent, and unemployment falling from an average of 3 million next year to 2½ million in 1987.

The LBS, whose thinking on the economy closely matches that of Treasury ministers, is among the more optimistic of outside forecasters, many of whom have been predicting a marked slowdown in economic growth next year.

But Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has dismissed these misgivings and there are signs that City sentiment is beginning to turn his way.

The main reason for this is the outlook for inflation, where fears that price rises would accelerate next year are fading. Mr Lawson said in his Mansion House speech recently that the latest economic indicators point-

ed to a downward path for inflation next year. This would raise people's purchasing power and help maintain the momentum of consumer spending.

In a reappraisal of inflation prospects released today, James Capel, the stockbroking firm, suggests that the pace of price rises will peak at 6½ per cent in spring and fall to 4½ per cent by the end of 1984, well below the 5½ per cent expected this Christmas. This view is, however, not shared by Capel-Cure Myers, which sees inflation

levelling at 6 to 6½ per cent in 1984.

The LBS optimism, like that of the Chancellor, is based on the improving profitability of British industry. The LBS expects the 20 per cent profits rise this year and next to generate a 6½ per cent increase in private non-residential investment in 1984, which takes over from consumer spending as the main driving force behind the recovery.

The LBS also expects less demand to be syphoned off by imports and a pick-up in exports next year.

In a special article, Mr Bill Robinson and Mr Geoffrey Dicks blame manufacturing job losses over the past 15 years on rising industrial costs and the tendency of real wages to outstrip productivity growth. They urge the Government to reverse the trend by running tighter fiscal policies to bring down interest rates and hence the exchange rate, cutting costs and boosting competitiveness.

The latest LBS forecasts do not depend on any government stimulus to the economy. They assume that the Chancellor will in future try to hit his money targets with a tighter fiscal policy and lower interest rates. This would leave room for tax cuts only if the Government managed against the odds to hold to its published spending.

In an article in *The Director* today, Mr Gordon Pepper, the influential stockbroker economist, says that there can be a sustained economic recovery and a fall in unemployment if the Government allows the money supply to grow in real terms, Jonathan Davis writes.

Mr Pepper, a partner of W Greenwell, argues that the Government will probably tolerate growth in the real money supply of at least 4 per cent a year, while still sticking to its borrowing and public spending targets.

If this sort of rate is not being achieved, Mr Pepper believes the Government will cut interest rates in order to sustain the momentum of the recovery, even if this means being "relaxed" about nominal monetary growth exceeding its target.

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## CBI warning expected on upturn

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The main conclusions likely to be drawn from the latest quarterly trends survey of the Confederation of British Industry are that Britain's economic recovery is still slowly gathering pace and should continue into next year, and that exports look to be picking up after a poor summer.

The survey, to be published tomorrow, is also expected to confirm the concern of CBI leaders that growth could peter

out next year unless there are new measures to stimulate industrial activity.

CBI economists said in a report in August that national output could grow by 2 per cent this year but then begin to slow in the first few months of 1984. This represented a downward revision of earlier CBI forecasts.

In recent months, ministers have been encouraged by successive CBI surveys showing

that the recovery was under way, but CBI leaders have advocated caution.

Ministerial approval, particularly from the drier members of the Cabinet, should be more forthcoming, for the results on Friday of an Institute of Directors business opinion survey, the first of a bi-monthly series.

The first survey is expected to reveal a greater degree of cautious optimism

## Wood Mackenzie in talks with Exco

By Jeremy Warner

Exco International has narrowed the field of stockbroking firms it is seriously interested in merging with down to one - the big Edinburgh firm of Wood Mackenzie.

Talks between Exco's chief executive, Mr John Gunn, and a Wood Mackenzie senior partner, Mr John Chene, have moved off the preliminary stage, though no announcement of the form which any association will take is likely this year.

Wood Mackenzie is one of a large number of City trading firms which are talking to outsiders about possible links and the consequences of the relaxation of Stock Exchange rules that has been agreed with the Government.

It was confirmed last week that Midland Bank is in serious talks with at least one of the big London firms, while Exco's competitor as a broadly based financial services group, Mercantile House, is also known to be talking about links with several other brokers.

A recent survey on stockbroking commission income placed Wood Mackenzie as the fifth largest stockbrokers overall and the second largest in British institutional equities. Exco already owns W Carr Overness, an international stockbroking firm with a strong presence in Far Eastern markets, and this will be of interest to Wood



Gunn: merger prospects narrowed down to one company.

Mackenzie in its quest for business outside Britain.

There is also a natural affinity between Wood Mackenzie's rapidly developing performance measurement service and Exco's 31 per cent interest in Telestar, the United States financial information service.

A big hurdle in the talks is likely to be Exco's stated aim of eventually owning 100 per cent of any British partner, it forms important links with.

Present Stock Exchange rules do not allow outsiders to own any more than 30 per cent of a stockbroking firm, while there is a clear reluctance among the Edinburgh firm's 37 partners to sell out entirely.

## Holiday groups set to merge

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

An agreed deal worth between £5m and £6m by Hogg Robinson Travel for Wakefield Fortune Travel is expected to be announced this week. It would make Hogg Robinson Travel, part of the Hogg Robinson insurance group, the third largest travel agency chain in Britain, closely challenging Thomas Cook and Pickfords Travel.

Talks between Hogg Robinson and Holland America Line (HAL), Wakefield's privately owned parent company, which has strong Netherlands connections, have been going on for at least 10 weeks.

But except for a few final details, including a property assessment of Wakefield's 95 travel outlets, most difficulties appear to have been ironed out. It has paved the way for a likely announcement by the end of this week.

Hogg Robinson has rather fewer travel outlets than Wakefield but top Wakefield's turnover of around £100m by almost £50m. Individually both lag well behind Thomas Cook and Pickfords, each of which has more than 200 outlets.

The Hogg Robinson and Wakefield outlets are largely complementary geographically with less than half a dozen overlapping locations.

Wakefield is strong in conurbations like London and those in the West Midlands, the North West and in Yorkshire plus a group of outlets in Glasgow. Apart from central London, Hogg Robinson takes in a big swathe of the South-east as far as the south coast.

Although Wakefield is profitable at the trading level, it is still not making any bottom line contributions to its parent because it is working off losses incurred up to three years ago and is also servicing recent heavy investments.

There has been considerable spending on computerization and early this year it bought Blue Star Travel, a subsidiary of Blue Star Line. This believed to have cost rather more than £2m.

Wakefield's expectation was to be near break-even next year, running into bottom line profit the following year.

HAL itself has been running into losses. Intense competition in the North American cruise market, in which HAL is heavily involved, has been eroding profitability.

## Pension association seeks power to expel

By Philip Robinson

The National Association of Pension Funds is seeking power to expel members for bad behaviour, malpractice or breaching the Trust Laws - the only legal control on the funds and their managers.

The association wants approval from its 2,000 members at an extraordinary meeting on November 9. The move comes at a crucial time for the industry. The NAPF has been privately criticized for lack of authority and initiative and the regulation of funds by either themselves or a Government is the subject of debate.

Last week, Mr Alex Fletcher, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, made it clear during a conference on self-regulation that all organizations dealing with investments must be accountable to someone. They would either regulate themselves or come under government supervision, he said.

Important pension funds are also growing restless at the lack of an effective organization for parliamentary lobbying.

## Theakston attracts third bid

By Derek Pain  
City Correspondent

The takeover struggle for control of T. and R. Theakston, the Yorkshire brewery, is becoming more and more peculiar.

Theakston, famed for its Old Peculier strong beer, as already attracted the takeover attentions of Mr Michael Abrahamson - the textile tycoon who turned ground the AW (Securities) carpet group in the 1960's - and Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewer.

Now another, unidentified brewery has put in a takeover bid which apparently tops the Matthew Brown offer of 64p a share, pricing Theakston at £2.7m.

Keen interest in the Yorkshire brewery has also been expressed by an individual who is not a member of the "beverage."

The Theakston takeover fight has become increasingly complicated with the founding Theakston family as well as the board split. The first proposal, came from Mr Abrahamson.

But this deal was not to the taste of Mr Paul Theakston, chairman, who arranged for Brown to make a bid.

## Eagle board unlikely to take up Allianz offer

By Our Financial Staff

An offer by Allianz Versicherungs, West Germany's leading insurer, to call off its £692m takeover bid for Eagle Star at the earliest opportunity in return for seats on the Eagle Star board, is likely to be firmly rebuffed.

"We have received no offers of this sort, which suggests it cannot be seriously intended," Mr Christopher Roshier, of Eagle Star's merchant bank adviser, Hill Samuel, said yesterday.

He also stressed that an offer made some time ago to the German parent of two seats on the board would still be open if Allianz were prepared to accept the conditions laid down then.

These included undertakings not to bid while representatives were on the board or for 12 months after their departure and not to use the access to confidential information that

being a director of Eagle Star would give for Allianz's own trading purposes.

There is no reason to suppose that Allianz would be any keener now to accept these conditions than it was then.

The Office of Fair Trading was told by Allianz last week that it would prefer to take its stake in Eagle Star to 40 per cent and win boardroom representation to a full merger.

But it is clear that the two sides are as far away from any form of agreement on how the two groups can move forward in harmony as they ever were.

This is likely to become an increasingly important feature of the OFT's deliberations on whether to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since fierce management opposition to takeover often tips the balance of argument in favour of reference

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## Taking the lid off the rising yen

Any moves to make the yen more widely used as an international currency - as part of Japan's programme to open up its international trading system - could have a more immediate impact on Britain than its major exporting competitors.

Britain is negotiating 40 foreign deals worth more than £2,000m which it plans to finance in yen.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department signalled its readiness to guarantee yen-financed contracts - which offer considerable savings to overseas buyers outside Japan by taking advantage of much lower interest rates on the Tokyo money markets - in June last year. But it has yet to insure its

countries would attract a 10.35 per cent interest rate.

In practice, with most trading nations expecting the US dollar to drop in value, buyers have been too frightened to sign yen deals. They are expecting the Japanese currency to harden and if the yen does rise steadily in value over the next few years, they also see the revenue they earn from Japan being worth that much more.

Under the latest consensus arrangements concluded this month - which covers minimum interest rates for exports of capital goods to developing countries - rates as low as 8.5 per cent could be offered. Under the new terms, two to five year deals for most developing

If however, the Japanese Government is now willing to allow its currency to be more exposed to international business, chances of third country buyers being willing to accept yen-financed purchases will receive a significant psychological boost.

## BP offshoot begins Arctic drilling

# Sohio's great Alaskan gamble

From David Young, Deadhorse, Alaska

At midnight tonight the Alaskan government will give BP's US associate company the go-ahead to start a \$30m (£20m) drilling programme in the sea 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

The drilling will start at a minute past midnight in 48 feet of water from an artificial island built from gravel at a cost of \$100m. Sohio, which is 53 per cent owned by BP, to drill at the site, 30 miles off the existing Prudhoe Bay oilfield.

By December 10 the drilling team will know if the artificial island, now named Mukluk and surrounded by pack ice, is sitting above what is estimated to be an oil field half the size of Prudhoe Bay.

With Prudhoe Bay accounting for 10 per cent of US oil reserves, the potential of Mukluk is enormous and would keep Sohio, which effectively means BP, among the world's main producers when the Prudhoe field moves off peak

production towards the end of the century.

Sohio's Alaskan drilling manager Mr Dick Jones, who has been transferred from BP's North Sea team, said: "This could be one of the world's great oilfields. By December 10 we should reach the depth where we think we will hit oil. By mid January we should know the potential oil reserves in the field."

If the Mukluk project does hit oil it will lead to a new boom in Alaska, where the local economy has been transformed since BP first found oil in the late 1960s. At present, 19 of the 35 drilling rigs in Alaska are idle.

New production facilities will be needed and more artificial islands built. A total of 300 wells could be needed on Mukluk with as many as 25 gravel islands.

Production on Mukluk would bring new environmental problems. On shore Prudhoe Bay and along 800 miles of the trans-Alaskan pipeline measures to protect the wild life

added billions of dollars to project costs.

The Bowhead whale, which passes Mukluk twice a year on its annual migration before the sea freezes over completely, will mean drilling will have to be stopped for two months.

The Sohio engineering team, recognized as the world leader in research into the whale's habits, estimates that there are only 3,852 Bowhead whales left.

Mr Jones said: "There are fears that vibration from the rigs could affect the whales. We also have problems with polar bears turning up at the drill sites but our main problem is ice."

"We have a US Navy hovercraft coming soon for evaluation and because we will be able to go straight from the shore to the island across patches of unstable ice we should be able to save time and money in the drilling programme."

However, Sohio is aware that previous exploration in both the

Alaskan and Canadian sectors of the Beaufort Sea have yet to find significant amounts of oil.

Mr Richard Hubbard, a BP geologist, said: "The Mukluk structure is similar to Prudhoe Bay, but no one can make an assumption about production possibilities until we drill the Mukluk well. Even with new scientific aids the oil business is still a very risky business."

● Peking. (Reuter) - Five foreign oil companies, from the United States, Japan and Britain, have signed contracts to explore and develop China's offshore oil reserves, according to the New China News Agency.

A consortium grouping the Japan National Oil Corporation and the US companies Getty Oil International (Orient), Sun Orient Exploration and Texas Eastern Orient have been allocated a block in the Pearl River mouth basin. Britain's independent Cluff Oil is to drill in the northern part of the South Yellow Sea.

## Japan Air Lines are taking on new executives every day

Friday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Saturday
Saturday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Sunday
Sunday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Monday
Monday	Heathrow - Moscow - Tokyo - Osaka	Tuesday
Tuesday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Wednesday
Wednesday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Thursday
Thursday	Heathrow - Copenhagen - Tokyo - Osaka	Friday

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**JAPAN AIR LINES**



## American notebook

## So this is the world of disinflation

The financial markets are not in a happy mood, despite the welcome and unexpected drop of \$2.4 billion in the country's basic money supply announced on Friday.

The bond markets are very worried about the prospect of inflation. From December 1983 to March 1983, consumer prices in the United States rose at under 2 per cent a year. But in the six months ending September this year, they rose at about 6 per cent.

After the huge build-up of money growth between July 1982 and June 1983 - about 12 per cent - it is expected that there will be a further acceleration of inflation during 1984 - perhaps to a rate of 8 or 9 per cent a year by next summer.

The bond markets cannot get this idea out of their

thinking and are therefore exceedingly reluctant to bid bond prices up to where the yield will drop significantly.

The long Treasury bond - maturing in 30 years - is still yielding an enormous 17.75 per cent.

This is not all that concerns the bond market. This week the Treasury has planned to introduce the last of its big fundings for 1983 - a \$16 billion package. By Congress has been acting at a snail's pace to make the necessary increase in the debt ceiling legal.

What is more, the bond dealers have little or no retail interest in the Treasury paper to look to and consequently they believe they will be holding most of the \$16 billion themselves, if and when it actually comes to market.

The stock markets are equally unhappy. The failure of the bond market to achieve a good rally has locked in stock market yields and hence has put a ceiling on stock market prices. The stock markets are worried about the durability of the present economic expansion with good reason.

After all, the Federal Reserve, in a belated attempt to control an inflationary upsurge, has frozen banks' reserves for the past six months and, as a result, money growth has dropped to 4½ per cent in the last four months and to 1 per cent in the past two.

This very slow growth makes it very likely that there will be a sharp decline in the rate of economic expansion in the first half of 1984.

Special factors have hit the stock markets - notably the carnage in the computer industry and the grave uncertainties about the major banks' exposure to loans to the Third World.

The precious metals market are very depressed. Silver has fallen out of bed and gold is very sickly. These are reflections of the high level of real interest rates in the US. Some brave souls are now proclaiming themselves very bullish on gold, looking to a resurgence of inflation in 1984.

But who can be sure that the bond markets will not merely counter any such inflation by driving nominal interest rates

The oil markets, once the plying of speculators, have also remained very subdued. The commodity markets as

a whole are on the decline.

This is no doubt what the world of disinflation was meant to look like.

Dr Robert G. Smith, senior partner in the New York money management firm to Smith Affiliated Capital Corporation pointed to the secular forces of disinflation last week.

He identified:

1. The persistent high level of real interest rates.
2. The strong dollar, which has led to unprecedented trade and current account deficits for the US. These deficits provide a powerful disinflationary drag on the growth of the economy, while the strong dollar has given imports a tremendous edge over domestic producers.
3. The wave of legislated deregulation among many domestic industries.

Maxwell Newton

## USM REVIEW

## Acorn pins hopes of share revival on new microcomputer

Acorn Computers' performance since it joined the Unlisted Securities Market earlier this month has been abysmal. Advertised as one of the most successful names in computers and with the financial expertise of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bankers, and Cazenove, the brokers, the shares have continued to lose ground. On Friday they closed at 103p compared with the minimum tender and striking price of 120p. The 11.23 million shares were allotted in full amid complaints from the rest of the market that the biggest company quoted on the USM had been overpriced.

There are also some doubts in the market over whether Acorn can hold on to its microcomputer contract with the BBC, which comes up for renewal in August next year. The present contract was awarded in 1981 by the BBC which wanted to use Acorn's microcomputer in computer literacy programmes contained in two television series.

Under the deal, Acorn is allowed to use the BBC name to market and sell its range of BBC microcomputers, which accounted for around 95 per cent of Acorn's total business. The BBC microcomputer almost totally dominates the education market in this country.

Acorn has already embarked on negotiations with the BBC to have the contract renewed. Asked if there was any chance of losing the contract, the joint managing director, Mr Christopher Curry, replied: "Oh goodness me, no. They have no intention of going elsewhere."

Mr Curry admits that the BBC microcomputer plays a large part in group profitability, but he is still confident of

selling the equipment under the Acorn label.

"The BBC label has been of immense value to UK sales, but its influence is not so impressive overseas," he says.

As a result, Acorn is putting heavy emphasis on sales of its new electron microcomputer launched earlier this year.

"Sales of Electron are now exceeding demand for the BBC computer," Mr Curry says.

Acorn is only too aware of the disappointing performance of the shares since they came to market and Mr Curry attributes much of the blame to events in US where the collapse of several computer hardware groups coincided with Acorn's launch.

"The City needs to be educated on what this company's activities are. We are also a software company as well as a hardware manufacturer," he adds. Mr Curry now hopes that the flagging shares price might be revived by the interim figures, due out shortly, and hints that there might be some good news soon on the export front. Whatever the outcome, Mr Curry is confident



Michael Peters: luring investors with original

they will be able to restore some of the lost confidence in the City since the shares went into their nosedive.

Market stages were having their appetites whetted last week following details of the French Connection's offer for

sale. Grievous Grant, the brokers, and Barclays Merchant Bank are offering 1.8 million shares in the group which designs and markets fashions in the UK, France and the US.

The shares are being offered at a fixed price of 123p, which is a rare event in the USM these days. But with only 12 per cent of the company being offered only a few lucky shares likely to be offered enough stock to make the venture worthwhile.

French Connection is the invention of Mr Stephen Marks, chairman, who will retain around 80 per cent of the shares worth around £17m. The shares are coming to market on an underwriting P/E of 13.9 and despite the group's poor track record is forecasting pretax profits of £2.8m for the year against £803,000 last year.

Dealings are expected to start next week and the price should have little difficulty in opening around the 135p to 140p level.

A design group undertaking a launch on the USM may be expected to cut a dash. The Michael Peters Group has

certainly produced a stylish prospectus.

Its primary coloured flaps unfold to reveal not only the facts and figures of this design consultancy based in Notting Hill, London, but also four original puzzles.

Henderson Croftwhite, brokers, enlisted the help of the off-spring of the partners to test whether they are possible - they are.

The company is hoping to raise £504,000 to finance a move to larger premises. One million shares at 85p are being placed with £50,000 being allocated to those working for the company. The group is capitalised at £4.8m and is being launched with an historic P/E ratio of 24.2.

Turnover has risen from £552,000 in 1979 to £1,867,000 in 1983 with profits of £360,000. The forecast dividend for the year ending in June 1984 is 1.785p per share.

Michael Peters is following design companies Alderson and Fitch along the path to the USM. But this is the first company to promote itself with radio and television advertising to trumpet their way to the stock exchange.

Michael Clark

## Unlisted Securities

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
ABN Bank	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Barclays	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
BCCI	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Citibank	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Consolidated	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Continental	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
C. Moore & Co	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Lloyds Bank	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Midland Bank	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Nat Westminster	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
TSB	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Williams & Glyn's	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00

## EUROBOND PRICES

Country	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Germany	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
France	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Italy	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Spain	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
UK	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00

## APPOINTMENTS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
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C. Moore & Co	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Lloyds Bank	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Midland Bank	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Nat Westminster	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
TSB	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00
Williams & Glyn's	103.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00

## Director named at Lloyds

Lloyds Bank: Lord Saye and Sele has become a director of the South Midlands regional board.

Midland Bank: Mr A. E. Robinson, previously regional director, Home Counties, has been made assistant general manager UK operations. Mr J. N. Boreham, previously regional director, Bristol, succeeds Mr Robinson as regional director, Home Counties. Mr A. E. Troop, previously regional director, Exeter, has been appointed regional director, South West.

British Aerospace: Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans, formerly Vice Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics), has joined British Aerospace as military adviser to the Aircraft Group, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Smallwood, who has retired.

Lever Industrial: Mr Barry Hartop is to succeed Dr George Gibbons as chairman and managing director. Dr Gibbons will be maintaining his connections with the industry, notably as chairman of the British Institute of Cleaning Science.

## Flick knife is an offensive weapon made for causing injury to the person

Regina v Simpson (Calvin)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Mustill and Mr Justice Leonard.

[Judgment delivered October 28]

The Court of Appeal resolved doubt about whether judicial notice could be taken of a flick knife being an offensive weapon "made for use for causing injury to the person" within section 1(4) of the Prevention of Crimes Act 1953.

The Lord Chief Justice, delivering the judgment of the court dismissing an appeal against conviction, stated that judicial notice could be taken of that fact that a flick knife was an offensive weapon within the meaning of section 1(4) of the Prevention of Crimes Act 1953.

The appeal was brought by Calvin Simpson, aged 24, of Farnside Road, Balham, London, who was convicted at Croydon Crown Court (Judge Band QC) of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment suspended for two years and fined £100 with one month's imprisonment in default.

Mr David Wolchover, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant, Mr Arnold Cooper for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appellant admitted possessing a flick knife in a public place. He raised a defence of reasonable excuse for possession in that he had it for nothing more sinister than for doing electrical work on his car. The jury obviously rejected that defence.

The trial judge held on the authority of *Gibson v Wales* (The Times November 2, 1982; 1 WLR 393) that it was not open to the appellant to argue that the weapon was not made for use for causing injury to the person, that is, was not an offensive weapon.

The appellant contended that the judge erred and that the Court of Appeal should not follow the Divisional Court decision in *Gibson v Wales*.

The flick knife was an easily recognized object, conveniently defined in section 1(1) of the

Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 as "any knife which has a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in or attached to the handle of the knife, sometimes known as a 'flick knife' or 'flick gun'."

In *Gibson v Wales* Lord Justice Griffiths concluded that "a flick knife was not made for use for causing injury to the person" within the meaning of section 1(4) of the Prevention of Crimes Act 1953.

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It was never easy to say where the line should be drawn in such a situation. The Court of Appeal held that the category into which a sheath knife fell was a matter for the jury because, in effect, it depended on the sort of knife which was in the sheath.

Their Lordships thought that the flick knife fell on the other side of the line and that such knives came into the category of an offensive weapon *per se*. Such weapons were plainly designed by the manufacturer to be carried conveniently concealed in hand or pocket and to be brought into use with the minimum of delay to the assailant and of warning to the victim. There was no doubt that a flick knife was pulled open by hand or removed from its sheath.

As was pointed out by Professor Smith in his commentary on *Gibson v Wales* (1983) Crim L R 114, it was of importance in the Crown Court, although not in the magistrates' court, to decide whether the matter should be approached on the basis that judicial notice was taken of the fact that the flick knife was an offensive weapon *per se* or whether, on the other hand, the nature of the knife itself constituted overwhelming evidence that it should be held to be an offensive weapon *per se*.

In the former case the judge was entitled to direct the jury to find the weapon to be an offensive weapon in the Crown Court, although not in the magistrates' court, to decide whether the matter should be approached on the basis that judicial notice was taken of the fact that the flick knife was an offensive weapon *per se* or whether, on the other hand, the nature of the knife itself constituted overwhelming evidence that it should be held to be an offensive weapon *per se*.

Once one reached the conclusion that a flick knife was an offensive weapon *per se*, it was a matter of fact for the jury to decide whether or not the defendant had used the weapon for causing injury to the person. Their Lordships' view was that that was a matter of fact which judicial notice could be taken and the jury directed accordingly.



















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# Royal protester joins Dutch rally for peace

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam

The powerful Dutch peace movement broke all records on Saturday when more than half a million protesters gathered in The Hague to demonstrate against the deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe.

The occasion was perhaps more significant than similar demonstrations in other European capitals because the Netherlands is the only Nato country where cruise and Pershing 2 missiles are scheduled to be deployed that has not yet decided to sanction the deployment. That decision will not be taken before next Spring.

One of the highlights of the peaceful protest was the surprise appearance and speech by Princess Irene, the younger sister of Queen Beatrix, and formerly second-in-line to the succession.

She told the crowd: "Through the weapons we now have made, we are standing on the edge of the abyss and we cannot make any more mistakes because that would mean that the whole world, our earth, would be destroyed."

She added: "Our concern is great and that is what we are expressing today."

It was the first time that a member of the Dutch royal family had publicly expressed an opinion on the nuclear arms race. It was noted that the princess was described as

"HRH Princess Irene von Lippe-Biesterfeld", her father's name. Princess Irene declined to seek parliamentary approval for her marriage in 1964 to Prince Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parma.

Coming in the wake of allegations, which have been denied, that Queen Beatrix told the Rev Jesse Jackson, the black American leader, that she opposed the deployment on Dutch soil of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles, observers have been quick to point out that the royal family is more popular than ever in left-wing circles.

Mr Ruard Lubbers, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister, said in a television interview that most Dutch people were not unconditionally opposed to the siting of the missiles.

Although his Liberal coalition partners are in favour of deployment, Mr Lubbers will have to reckon with the fact that 41 per cent of his own voters are unconditionally opposed to deployment, as was revealed by an opinion poll on the eve of the demonstration.

● COPENHAGEN: A record 150,000 Danes staged mass anti-missile rallies and protest marches over the weekend in Copenhagen and leading provincial cities in the country's biggest demonstrations since the Second World War.

## More Greenham arrests after second attack

Women protesters at Greenham Common, yesterday staged another attack, similar to Saturday's, on the British missile base, and again cut through part of the wire mesh perimeter fence.

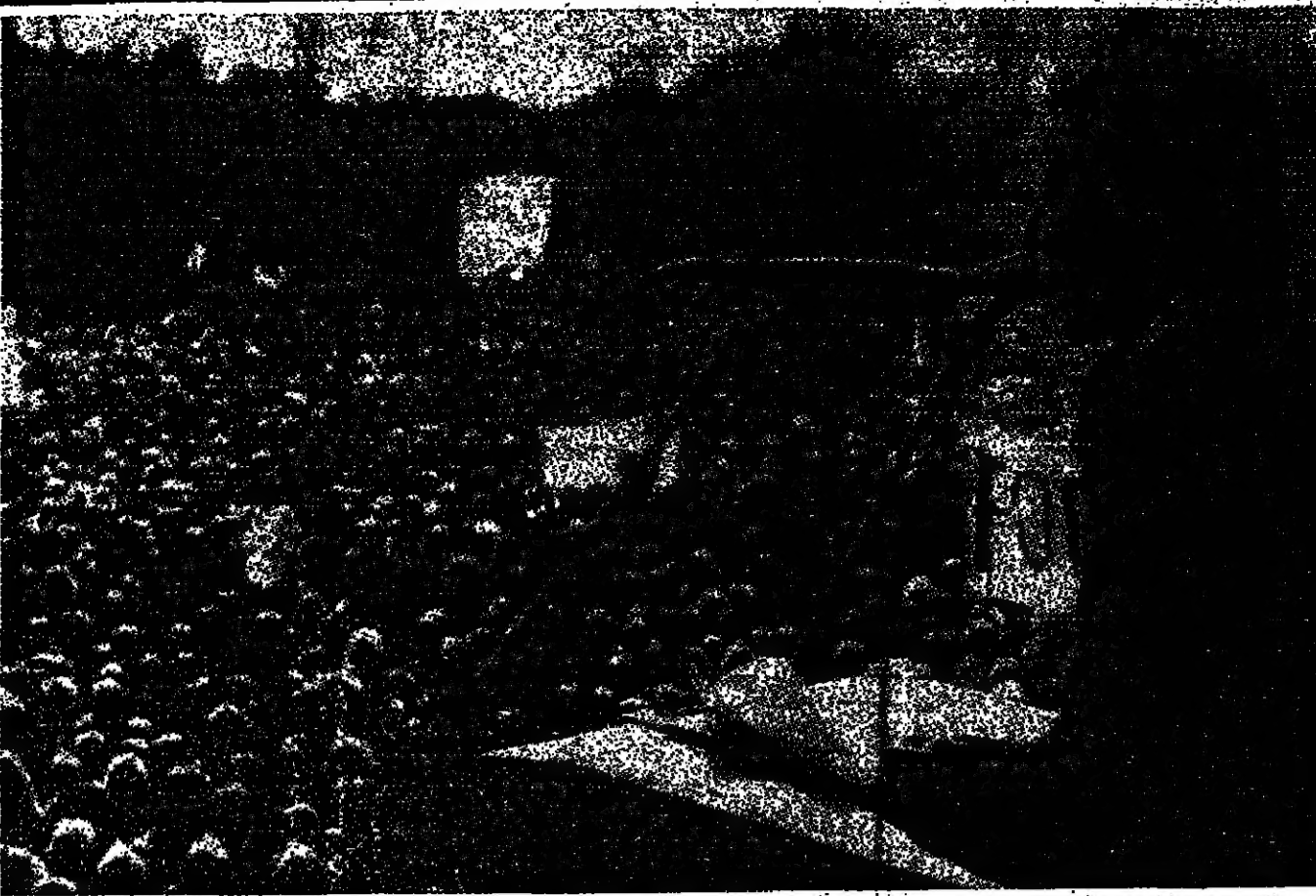
But it is understood far fewer women took part in the attack compared with more than 1,000 on Saturday.

Eight women were arrested during yesterday's incident and were expected to be charged with offences in connection with damage.

Mr Wedgwood Benn claimed yesterday that Britain now knew "that Reagan will not consult Mrs Thatcher before the cruise missiles are used".

Speaking on TV-am, Mr Benn said there was now genuine fear that Britain could be destroyed "as a by-product of an adventurous American policy which we oppose".

The stationing of cruise missiles would make Britain "a prime target" even if we opposed US policy, he said.



Rallying call: Princess Irene of The Netherlands addressing the 500,000-strong anti-missile protest

## Troops mop up as island faces uncertain future

Continued from page 1

elections could be held. They are also considering the making of any Caribbean peacekeeping force which might move in as the Americans withdraw.

Although the latter have said they would like to leave as soon as possible, that depends on the establishment of stable government and how long the Cuban groups, which have taken to the hills, continue to resist.

Fighting is still going on, and troops and aircraft are attacking Cuban positions. The Americans are steadily strengthening their forces, building up their supply base and fortifications at the Cuban-built airstrip at Point Salines.

Mr Tom Adams, the Prime Minister of Barbados, one of the champions of intervention in Grenada, went to the island to meet Sir Paul Scoon and Brigadier Raymond Lewis, the commander of the Caribbean contingent on the island.

Mr Adams, perhaps optimistically, thinks elections can be held in about three months. He regards the invasion, made at the invitation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, as a success. He said he wished it had started a day earlier, because it gave the Cubans more time to prepare their defences.

Although Trinidad and Guyana were against the Americans going in and the Grenada affair has exacerbated the strained relationship between Trinidad and Barbados, other Caribbean countries were strongly in favour.

## Reagan's tough line goes down well at home

Continued from page 1

The poll findings will have important implications, both for the President's decision whether or not to seek re-election and for the Administration's conduct of foreign policy.

Mr Reagan, who appeared stunned and worn out in the wake of the Beirut bombings, seemed to have his confidence completely restored by the time he left Camp David at the weekend.

US officials speculated that the success of the Grenada operation will persuade the President to take a tougher line on foreign policy issues in the future, particularly in areas where the United States is perceived to be confronting a Soviet and Cuban threat, such as Central America.

Such a possibility was hinted at by Mr William Casey, the director of the CIA, who gave a warning in a speech at West-

minster College in Fuhon, Missouri, that the United States had failed to confront the challenge of the Soviet Union in developing countries and must now adopt a "realistic counter strategy".

The prospect that the President may again be tempted to use force to achieve foreign policy objectives is clearly worrying many Democrats and some liberal Republicans as well, particularly as the President has largely ignored the views of Congress on Grenada and Lebanon during the past week.

### Letter from Luther's city

## Messages for all from a turbulent cleric

He stands there in his friar's habit, his hand on the Bible, looking up to Heaven as he defends himself before Emperor and accounts. "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, thus the famous statue words that scholars now maintain Martin Luther probably never spoke."

His statue, flanked by that of Frederick the Wise, the princely Saxon protector and other figures from the turbulent days of the Reformation, the centre of Worms, a city where the father of the Reformation spent only 10 days in all.

The great twelfth-century Romanesque cathedral where the electors of the Holy Roman Empire worshipped remains Catholic, but Worms in every other respect is Luther's city.

Appropriately, therefore, the Evangelical Church in West Germany, chose Worms as its focus for the celebrations commemorating the 500th anniversary of his birth. Clergy, scholars, and laymen from East and West were among the 700 dignitaries gathered in symbolic recognition of the extraordinary influence this troubled, fiery Saxon had on the history, language and religion of Germany and beyond.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Karl Carstens, Dr Robert Romer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and representatives of the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish communities in Germany attended morning service together.

As they left the main Lutheran church they walked past today's manifestation of the political earthquake unleashed by Luther's preachings: the anti-nuclear banners, the purple scarves of the Protestant peace movement, texts on peace and Christianity from the profane writings and sermons of the sixteenth-century friar.

What is Luther's message for today? Why has this anniversary, which falls on November 10, found such an echo in both Germany?

For President Carstens, the brutality, fanaticism and cruelty of mankind, and the arms race, the break-up of age-old customs and morality which gave rise to the angst he detected today in his countrymen, all sought answers in Luther's faith, humanity and trust in the truth.

Luther offered no political answers. He insisted politicians used their own reason to solve matters of state. But equally he insisted politicians could not, as he had had all day, think they could control the spiritual world.

For East German bishops, Luther's message was sterner and more direct. They could not stay silent on today's political issues. "We do not believe that more missiles in Europe can bring peace nearer or help towards an arms agreement in Geneva. We think that more missiles will give birth to yet more missiles, nothing more." Dr Johannes Hempel, chairman of the Lutheran bishops' conference in East Germany, said.

Deployment would set people in both German states further apart and cause spiritual and material hardship. Like Luther, he had to speak out in an hour of particular danger - no words of comfort for Dr Kohl.

Even the palaces where Luther defended his 95 Theses was destroyed, as a plague early remarks, by the French in 1689 and in 1794. The famous cathedral and other old buildings were smashed in the Second World War, although most have been restored. New Worms is mainly famous for its Liebfrauenkirche.

Luther's spirit, however, lives on. The revival of religion, especially among the young, that so marks today's Germany, was acknowledged yesterday by the senior Roman Catholic Archbishop in Germany who said his church had much to learn.

Michael Binyon

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh give a Reception for the 21st Anniversary of Community Service Volunteers at Buckingham Palace, 6.

Princess Anne, Patron of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, attends the "Hallowe'en Fayre" of the North Middlesex Federation, in aid of the Save the Children Fund, at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruslip, 12.30.

Princess Anne attends the White Ensign Association's Dinner on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary at the Guildhall, London, 7.30.

Princess Margaret, as Deputy Colonel in Chief, the Royal Anglian Regiment, attends a Reception to mark the publication of the Book *Decision in Normandy*, by Carol D'Este, at the Royal Anglian Regiment's Headquarters, Bury St Edmunds, 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester attends a Reception to mark 75th Anniversary of Royal Commission on

### Historic Monuments (England)

at Fishmongers' Hall, London, 6.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Honorary President, attends the Presidential Dinner of the Royal Geographical Society at the Savoy Hotel, London, WC2, 7.30.

Princess Alexandra attends at a Hallowe'en Ball, held in aid of the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, of which Her Royal Highness is President, at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, London, 8.30.

### Nature notes

Goldcrests and firecrests, though they weigh little more than 10 grams, are crossing the North Sea to winter in Britain. The firecrests may be mostly along the South and East coasts; they can be distinguished from goldcrests by the black and white eyestripe under the gold crown. Kestrels from the Continent are also swelling the numbers of native birds. They swoop up almost vertically on to a branch, as they land in a tree it is a good moment to distinguish males from females, since the tail becomes conspicuous - male Kestrels have blue tails with a black tip, females have barred brown tails.

Leaves are falling faster. They lie thick under the sycamores and the Norway maples; and the first leathery plane leaves are coming down. Horse-chestnuts look very unusual with their large leaves scattered. On the Down, spindle-trees are colourful, with purple leaves and bright pink berries spilling open to reveal orange seeds. Many flowers linger in stony patches: ragwort, scabious, yellow, yellow, yellow, yellow.

DJM

### Roads

Middlesex M46 Northbound exit slip road at junction 2 (M40) closed, and contraflow on southbound carriageway; northbound entry slip road from M69 restricted. A34 Stroud, Warwickshire. M6 All traffic during one side of main road between junction 10 (Walsall) and junction 11 (Canwick) expect delays.

Wales and West A38: Traffic restrictions in Bristol Road, Gloucestershire. One lane on Taunton to Umminster road at Blackbrook roundabout, Somerset. A449: Contraflow at Gibraltar Tunnel, Gwent, junction with A40, Monmouth to Abergavenny Road.

North A6 Roadworks at Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire delays. A34 Delays in Wilmslow Road, Handforth, Cheshire. A66: Single lane at Bridge at Eden Lodge, Kirkby Thore, near Appleby; temporary lights.

Scotland M74: Contraflow at junction 2 (A71, Kilmarnock). A99: Contraflow on northbound carriageway, Forth Road Bridge; only one lane off peak; allow extra time. A77: Lane closure at junction with A870, north-east of Prestwick, Ayrshire.

Information supplied by A.A.

### Weather

A ridge of high pressure over the British Isles will move away eastwards as a trough of low pressure moves in from W.

#### 6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central & England, East Angles, E, W Midlands, Cheshire, Lancashire, Dry; sunny periods becoming cloudier; wind W backing S, moderate; max temp 18C (64F).

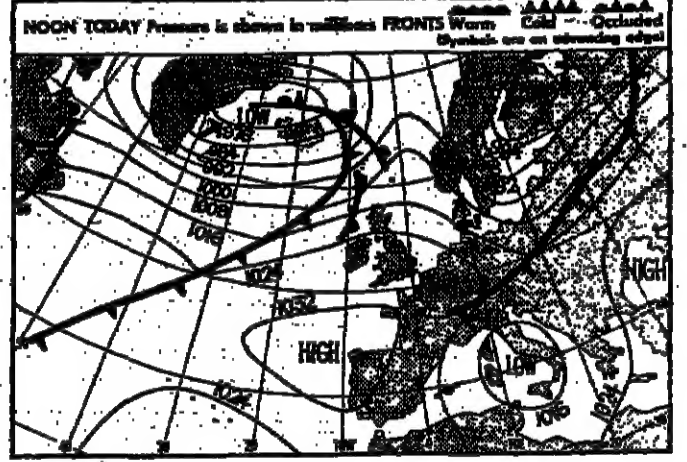
E, Central & NE England, N Wales, Lake District, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind W, moderate, backing S, increasing fresh or strong, perhaps gale later; max temp 11C (52F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, showers or longer outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind W, moderate, backing S, increasing fresh or strong, perhaps gale later; max temp 10C (50F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind S, fresh, increasing strong or gale; max temp 11C (52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Cloudy in the north though becoming less windy, mainly dry with sunny intervals in S; temperatures normal.

Passages: North Sea, English Channel (E), Strait of Dover: Wind W moderate, mainly fair; sea slight S; George's Channel Wind W to moderate or fresh, increasing strong or gale; SeaWind SW moderate becoming fresh or strong, sea slight or moderate.



#### High tides

Location	AM	PM	PM	MT
London Bridge	4.57	5.57	5.48	6.5
Aberdeen	4.57	5.57	5.48	6.5
Belfast	2.13	10.1	2.50	10.6
Reflett	1.24	3.0	7.06	3.4
Cardiff	3.4	2.56	6.5	3.8
Doncaster	12.54	4.4	1.24	4.5
Dover	6.58	5.5	7.80	5.6
Edinburgh	12.54	5.5	12.54	5.6
Glasgow	7.43	4.0	3.25	4.2
Hartlepool	8.01	3.3	7.49	3.7
Leamington	6.14	4.7	5.58	4.3
Red	1.18	5.3	2.30	6.2
Sheffield	1.21	1.1	1.58	7.8
Southampton	10.27	5.3	10.08	4.3
Liverpool	6.50	7.7	7.20	8.1
Lowestoft	4.21	2.2	5.51	2.3
Manchester	3.1	4.1	8.08	4.3
Milford Haven	1.97	6.4	2.12	5.8
Newquay	12.57	5.5	7.11	5.9
Oban	9.15	3.0	2.38	4.4
Penzance	12.10	4.4	12.38	4.4
Portland	2.19	1.6	2.27	1.6
Portsmouth	7.10	4.0	7.28	3.3
Scarborough	6.48	5.3	7.24	5.2
Southampton	6.50	4.3	7.11	5.2
St. Helier	6.50	4.3	7.11	5.2
Tides	1.57	4.8	7.40	3.4
Time	1.57	4.8	7.40	3.4